

Withdrawal angers supporters

Clinton and Bush scramble for Perot votes

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN NEW YORK

THE race for the White House was transformed dramatically yesterday when Ross Perot, the Texan billionaire, dropped out of the contest because he could not win.

His decision sparked a fierce contest between the Republican Bush camp and the Democrats of Governor Bill Clinton for the votes of Mr Perot's supporters.

Mr Perot paid tribute to Mr Clinton for the way he had "revitalised the Democrats" and said if he were to continue with his own candidacy it would disrupt the American political system.

The withdrawal came only a day after his campaign had been rocked by the resignation of one of his key aides, Ed Rollins, the architect of Ronald Reagan's 1984 landslide victory, and in the wake of

several opinion polls which showed his support falling precipitously.

Democrats and Republicans were stunned. President Bush appealed to Perot supporters to back his re-election effort. "They should feel at home with us," he telephoned Mr Perot two hours after the Texan bowed out and congratulated him on the "excitement he brought" to the 1992 contest.

During nationally televised news conference at his Dallas campaign headquarters, Mr Perot cited as his main reason for dropping out, the possibility that his candidacy would result in no candidate securing a majority of electoral college votes. When the decision to be sent to the House of Representatives for a vote, he said, then the American political system would be badly disrupted.

"Since the House of Representatives does not pick the president until January, the new president will be unable to use the months of November and December to assemble a new government," Mr Perot said.

He denied that his withdrawal had anything to do with the recent string of setbacks that had damaged his candidacy or that he was pulling out because of disaffection among his staff.

The overwhelming reaction from Perot volunteers was of anger. "We want the real thing," said one. "I don't believe the one he gave. He always knew it could go to the House of Representatives," said one. Others spoke of being appalled, suffering "more than a total shock", and being "sick over this". An elderly follower said: "We put our heart and soul in it. If Bush wins, I'll never forgive him. I think he's let us down terribly."

Marlin Fitzwater, the White House press secretary, immediately welcomed "any and all of Mr Perot's supporters". He continued: "We recognise that people turned to Mr Perot as part of their desire for a change in economic policy and we think that they will find their views are closer to ours than to Governor Clinton's."

Although most Perot supporters had been Republicans, Ron Brown, the Democratic party chairman, played on their disgust with the status quo that had driven them to Mr Perot in the first place. "Take heart," he told them. "Don't be disappointed. Don't give up and don't ever give in. Join our crusade to put people first and make America all it can be."

In a statement, Governor Clinton said: "We have heard their message and shared their hopes. I invite them to join us in our efforts to change our country and give our government back to the people."

Mr Perot indicated that he would ask the thousands of his volunteers around the country to continue their efforts to get his name on state ballots as a candidate. This, he said, would be a way to represent the level of discontent with "politics as usual". At present he is on 24 state ballots. He praised the volunteers for their "brilliant job" and said they had done their patriotic duty.

Mr Perot dismissed suggestions that his campaign, on which he had spent \$10 million (£5.3 million), had been a waste of time. "Both political parties are now squarely focused on the issues that concern the American people," he pointed out.

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Israel puts temporary halt on settlements

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S new government yesterday took its first step towards halting the construction of controversial Jewish settlements in the Israeli occupied territories when it banned temporarily the signing of all new building contracts in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In the clearest signal yet that the new administration of Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister, is serious about reversing the unpopular settlement policy of the outgoing Likud government, Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, the housing minister gave notice that contracts for existing projects and those pending were now under review.

The decision to halt the new contracts and review the future for an estimated 10,000 additional housing units already under way, will be warmly greeted by James Baker, the US Secretary of State, who arrives in Israel on Sunday on a tour of the Middle East intended to inject new life into his stalled peace efforts. Israeli officials said they hoped Mr Baker would use yesterday's decision to try and win concessions from the Arab states on his itinerary.

Wayne Owens, a Democrat from Utah and a member of the House foreign affairs committee who met Mr Rabin in Jerusalem yesterday, predicted that the new government's approach to peace-making would almost certainly open the way for Israel to receive the \$10 billion (£5.2 billion) in loan guarantees suspended by the Bush administration.

Mr Ben-Eliezer, whose decision could affect several thousand proposed housing units, said: "The stop is temporary for about a week or so until we have had time to examine the whole situation."

The announcement, condemned by right-wing settler leaders as a "declaration of war", could not have been in. Continued on page 18, col 1

Germany spares Major interest rate increase

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

AN early rise in British interest rates appeared to have been staved off yesterday after the Bundesbank ordered only a limited tightening of German monetary policy.

The Bundesbank eased pressure on the British government by increasing by 0.75 of a point its discount rate, its benchmark rate for lending to banks, but leaving unchanged the more important Lombard rate, which has greater impact on money markets and represents the effective interest-rate floor for each nation in the European exchange-rate mechanism.

The pound, after falling soon following the announcement, recovered to finish the day on DM2.85. John Major and Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, received the news with relief, and restated their determination to defend the pound and avoid devaluation. A Treasury statement said that the government remained committed to the ERM and to entering its narrow bands in due course at the current central rate of DM2.95.

The Bundesbank's move was seen in London as a response to warnings that higher German rates would have prompted increases across Europe. Mr Lamont on Monday took the unusual step of publicly calling on the bank not to raise rates.

The Bundesbank's raising of the discount rate, quickly followed by the Italians, was

seen as a signal by the bank about the dangers of inflation in the German economy.

The government described the German action as "clearly preferable to a straight increase in the Lombard rate". A Treasury source reported a "big sigh of relief" throughout the building when the news came through. The pound's recovery was attributed to market relief over the German decision and to better-than-expected unemployment and average earnings figures.

Senior government sources went as far as they could to suggest that an interest rate increase was ruled out for the foreseeable future. Had the Lombard rate gone up, the Treasury would almost certainly have had to follow.

The decision meant Tory MPs could leave Westminster for the summer recess in better heart than had seemed likely, but it failed to satisfy Euro-sceptics. William Cash, Tory MP for Stafford, said: "The Germans are strangling our economy. They are financing their expansion of eastern Europe at the expense of British home-owners, British interest rates, and British bankruptcies. This is completely unacceptable."

Sir Teddy Taylor, of the Conservative European Reform Group, said: "This is bitterly disappointing for the Chancellor that the Germans should so blatantly be disregarding the advice he gave

and the appeal he made." He added: "This could, within 10 days or so, create massive problems for Britain."

The Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, Alan Beith, said: "The Bundesbank is obviously trying to make clear that it is only signalling about inflation dangers in the domestic German economy." The British government was right to resist devaluation, but also needed to strengthen confidence in the economy.

Douglas McWilliams, the CBI's chief economic adviser, said: "The need now is for the Germans to pay for their unification by raising their own taxes and cutting their public spending, rather than by borrowing and hence putting pressure on interest rates."

Mr Lamont and Mr Major see keeping the pound in its current range against the mark in the ERM as vital for fighting inflation.

Hard options, page 14
Bank defensive, page 19

Blue Arrow convictions quashed

BY FRANCES GIBBS LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Court of Appeal yesterday quashed the convictions of four City advisers who received suspended prison sentences after the year-long Blue Arrow fraud trial. The other pending Blue Arrow trials now seem likely to be dropped.

The Serious Fraud Office said last night that it was urgently reviewing the situation, but declined to comment on yesterday's ruling before seeing the full judgment. The appeal court is thought to have held that the defendants' case was prejudiced because the long and complex trial became unmanageable.

The trial is estimated to have cost £35 million and the quashing of the convictions was being seen last night as a serious indictment of the handling of the case by the Serious Fraud Office and the prosecution.

Reform campaign, page 18

Killer drivers to face up to ten years in jail

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE maximum prison sentence for dangerous or drunk drivers who kill is to be doubled to ten years. The move, announced by Kenneth Clarke yesterday, comes after a series of cases raising public concern that existing penalties were too lenient.

The five-year maximum came into force only two weeks ago with the new offence of causing death by dangerous driving, and the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Goshforth, suggested earlier this year that the government should consider raising it to ten years.

His opinion was endorsed by the home secretary in a Commons written answer yesterday. "Those whose dangerous or drunk driving has

resulted in the tragic waste of another human life deserve to be punished accordingly," he said. "We are aware of public concern about the gravity of driving in a manner which causes fatal accidents and believe that the current maximum penalty of five years for these offences does not allow the courts adequately to reflect the seriousness of the worst cases."

One of the cases which is understood to have prompted the change was that of a drunken joyrider who killed a teenage courting couple. Jason Ewing, 21, had been drinking champagne, vodka, lager and wine when he drove into the couple at 90 mph in Soham, Cambridgeshire. He was jailed for three years.

Computer identifies Russia's royal skeletons

FROM SERGEI MOLOTOV IN YEKATERINBURG AND BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW



Tsar Nicholas as the computer sees him...

TODAY'S anniversary of the slaughter of the Russian imperial family has been given added poignancy by computer-aided evidence that a set of bones discovered a year ago are those of Tsar Nicholas and his family.

Officials in Yekaterinburg, near where the bones were found, say they are nearly certain that they are of the tsar, his wife, their five children, a doctor and three servants, who were murdered in 1918. Identification has been helped by computer reconstruction of faces from the skulls. The evidence seems to support the belief that the tsar's daughter Anastasia was killed with the rest

of the family. Two weeks ago, a local government official said that the bodies of the tsar and his doctor, Sergei Botkin, had been identified beyond all doubt. The final verdict may come at the end of this month when an international group of experts, including the American anthropologist William Maples, convenes in Yekaterinburg.

Because the evidence is not yet conclusive, today's religious service and procession around the site of the killings will fall slightly short of the event which many anticipate as the final closing of the Communist chapter in Russian history: the reburial of the royal family with all

the honours of the church and the approval of the Romanov family.

Maria Vladimirovna Romanova, heir to the Russian throne after the death of her father, Grand Duke Vladimir Kirillovich in April, has indicated that she is not quite convinced of the skulls' authenticity. She has, however, given her blessing to the plan to build a church where the killings took place. On Wednesday, the winning project for the building was announced at a ceremony presided over by Prince Andrei Galitsyn, head of the Russian Aristocrats' Society.

Eduard Rossel, head of Continued on page 18, col 3



...and as the world saw him before his murder

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Silent majority ensures victory for the Mirror's Securitate

BY ALAN HAMILTON

IRREVERENT staff at the *Daily Mirror* refer to their board of directors as the Securitate. The evil dictator may have gone, but too many of his former henchmen, they believe, survive in their new guise of pained ignorance at the largest fraud perpetrated this century. The "Securitate" had a rough ride at the hands of their electorate yesterday, but the silent majority won the day.

So many disgruntled shareholders and pensioners were expected at the first annual general meeting of Mirror Group Newspapers since Robert Maxwell's drowning that the company hired the Queen Elizabeth II conference centre at Westminster to take up to 1,500 victims of his theft. Barely 300 turned up, but the edge to their ire more than made up

for the empty seats. Early in the proceedings Sir Robert Clark, the merchant banker turned MGN chairman, warned the activists bent on the removal of himself and his fellow-directors that the proxy votes already counted were weighted ten to one in favour of passing the accounts and keeping the board.

Sir Robert, an elegant figure in dark blue suit and blue silk tie, looked like a respectable Tory party vice-chairman up from the shires. The blue background, and the other directors ranged on either side in their Sunday suits, further added to the impression of a conference by the party which the *Mirror* traditionally does not support.

But the Tory faithful do not abuse their leaders in public. Sir Robert, having read his 22-page chairman's statement, which may be the longest

in the history of annual reports, was roundly abused. The benefit of hindsight was a phrase which figured frequently in his defence.

Hardly had the three-hour meeting begun when a shareholder in the body of the hall leapt to his feet and suggested two minutes' respectful silence for Maxwell. The meeting, assuming it to be a disastrous joke, dissolved in disrespectful laughter.

At the end of Sir Robert's review, a shareholder asked why he had not mentioned his own 56 per cent pay rise. "I have not had any increase since April 1991," he retorted. "You should not believe everything you read in the newspapers." Which is rather like the chairman of Unilever saying that Persil occasionally washes a dirty grey.

Joseph Grizzard, a *Mirror* director in pre-Maxwell days, congratulated Sir Robert on "pouring

buckets of whitewash over the Maxwell affair, and presenting it as an unfortunate accident". This was no whitewash, said Sir Robert, you are employing hindsight again. The next questioner pointed out that even he, a humble pensioner, knew that Maxwell was not the Sugar Plum Fairy.

The attack moved to Joe Haines, Maxwell's political editor on the *Mirror* and still a board member.

"The day Maxwell was appointed, Haines called him a crook. Then he dipped his pen in brown ink and wrote a sycophantic biography of him. Can he explain how he so radically changed his views?" Mr Haines remained impassive. Sir Robert ruled the question out of order.

"We demand a vote of no confidence in the chairman," shouted a woman. Sir Robert smiled sweetly. "I'm afraid that's out of order as well."

Several *Mirror* journalists trooped to the microphone. "You didn't have the courage to stand up to the man. You are doing a disservice by staying; there are certain board members who really should go. You should definitely go, and go now," Tricia Harbord of the *Mirror* said.

But Sir Robert had his proxy votes, and outside in the sunshine Marjorie Proops, one of MGN's most venerable properties, posed for photographs. Marjorie has survived the evil dictator and the Securitate unscathed. They wouldn't have dared lay a finger on her.

MGN shares return, page 19

Ministers order 2% cut in university pay accord

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS made an unprecedented intervention in university lecturers' pay negotiations yesterday, ordering a cut of at least 2 per cent in an agreement struck ten weeks ago.

Vice-chancellors and union representatives had settled on a 6 per cent increase for lecturers, with a further 1 per cent to be allocated later in the year as performance-related pay. As reported in *The Times* on Monday, both sides were called to a negotiating committee for the first time in four years to be told that the government would not accept the deal.

Nigel Forster, higher education minister, said that the proposals were "too far out of line" with inflation. He demanded a bigger element of performance-related pay and a reduction in the overall increase before the government would release £24 million held back from the universities' grant.

Ministers refused a request for independent arbitration, which is an option in the negotiating machinery. The vice-chancellors and the Association of University Teachers demanded an immediate meeting with John Patten, education secretary.

Stewart Sutherland, vice-chancellor of London University, who led the delegation, said that the decision "leaves the clear question of who manages the universities". It seemed it was no longer the case that universities were free to negotiate pay deals.

"We want a 'high-quality product with the quality of staff that requires a decent salary,'" he said, adding that the consequences for staffing levels and university budgets had been fully considered.

Diana Warwick, general secretary of the association, said that her members would be "furious that a settlement they have already accepted has been rejected on spurious grounds". The union would now consider balloting members on industrial action.

Lecturers calculate that academic earnings have risen by only 10 per cent in real terms since 1979, compared with 58 per cent for average non-manual salaries and 45 per cent for teachers. A pay review body, which has been denied to academics, awarded schoolteachers 7.5 per cent in March.

Sir Pat Lowry, the former chairman of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, who chaired the committee which negotiated the original deal, said that he was "surprised and appalled" by the decision to interfere with an agreement.

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals said that it was considering whether to seek a judicial review of the decision to reject arbitration.

Jack Straw, Labour education spokesman, said: "It's proof that the government is operating the worst kind of public sector pay policy, not by debate or consent, but by bullying veto."

Boy friend appeals to trap knife killer

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE boy friend of Rachel Nickelle, the woman attacked and murdered in front of her two-year-old son on Wimbledon Common, appealed for public help yesterday in finding the killer.

Andre Hanscombe said that the attack had been so ferocious and bloody that the killer "could not have walked down the street and not been noticed. I would say to anyone who knows him that no matter how they feel about him please come forward before he destroys another life."

He said it was possible that his son Alexander, who was "bearing up", would remember little of the attack and had yet to speak about it.

As police continued to search the common, a man was still being questioned by detectives at a south London station. He was arrested shortly after the attack on Wednesday. Police were given permission by magistrates last night to hold him for a further 24 hours.

Miss Nickelle's parents, who live at Amptill, Bedfordshire, are on holiday in Canada. Her brother, Mark, said that he was still trying to contact them. Only he and his grandmother knew of the death. She was devastated by the news.

Miss Nickelle, 23, was described by neighbours in Tooting, south London, as a pretty, smiling girl who was close to her boy friend and son. She was regularly seen on the common, sometimes with another mother, walking with children and the dog.

Melody Weig, Miss Nickelle's friend and midwife, said the couple had been living together for about four or five years. Ms Weig, who had delivered Alexander in a home birth, said Rachel had been "wonderful as a mother. Totally natural. She was a strong woman, very capable, very athletic. She was a swimmer — her mother was a swimming instructor."

"As always, she looked absolutely stunning. She had such an easy way with people — totally exceptional as a person," said Ms Weig.

Miss Nickelle and her son were attacked as they walked

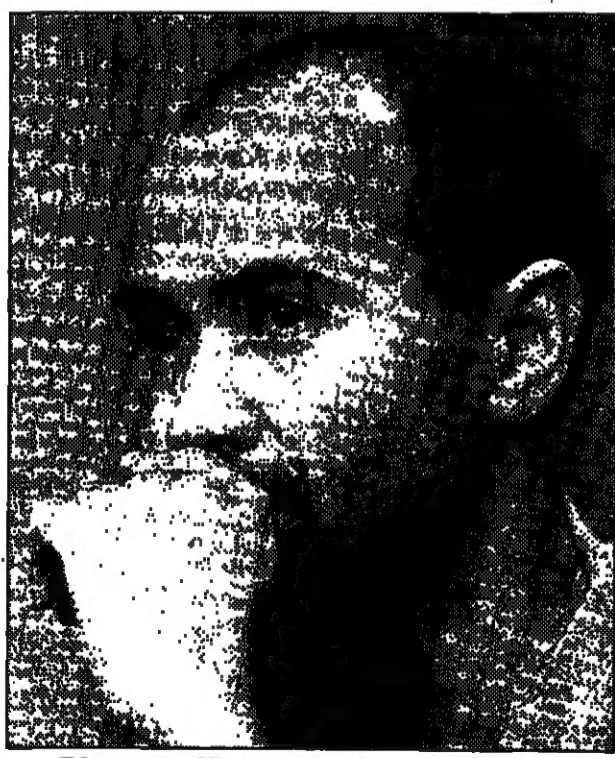


Murdered: Rachel Nickelle was brutally attacked on a stroll with her son

their black Labrador puppy on the common. She was dragged from a path and may have struggled with the attacker as she was assaulted and stabbed. Her son was found by the body dirty, bloody and unable to speak. Another mother stumbled on him as she walked with another woman and their children.

Mr Hanscombe, a motor cycle courier aged 29, said that his son, who had some scratches about the eyes when he was found, has been released from hospital. He was looking after him with relatives.

Det Supt John Bassett, heading the murder investigation, said that police had not questioned the child and would only do so when child psychiatrists and doctors said they should. Detectives investigating a series of sex attacks on public footpaths in south-east London were in touch with the officers investigating the murder.



Distraught: Hanscombe, Rachel's boy friend

RUC chief condemns sectarian savagery

IRISH republican and Loyalist paramilitaries were accused yesterday of matching each other in fanatical hatred, blind bigotry and sectarian savagery.

In a condemnation of the gunmen and bombers who left 87 dead last year, Sir Hugh Annesley, the RUC Chief Constable, said in his annual report that paramilitary groups on both sides were corrupting and cancerous within their own communities, and degraded the quality of life for all.

He said the number of young people who continued to be drawn into the various organisations through the evil influence of older people was a matter of concern. During the past five years, more than 200 people aged under 17 had found themselves before the courts on terrorist-related charges.

"The involvement of teen-

agers is a tragedy for all concerned — their victims, their families, themselves," he said. "The RUC has no desire to see young lives ruined; equally the law must take its course when serious crimes have been committed."

He added: "The police are seriously concerned that transporting and planting bombs in built-up areas contains the potential for massive disaster. Despite their so-called warnings, which cannot remotely assuage such activity, the Provisional IRA is recklessly putting life at risk in its campaign against Belfast and other urban centres."

Despite the troubles, crime generally in the province was recorded as lower than anywhere else in England and Wales, rising by only 11 per cent last year, as opposed to more than 16 per cent on the mainland.

Irish Dairy Board

A recent article (April 24) said that, according to a report by the European Community court of auditors, the Irish Dairy Board and its subsidiary, Kerrygold Ltd, had cheated taxpayers out of more than £11 million by abusing cheese export subsidies.

The court's published report did not criticise any particular company by name,

nor did it allege fraud. Though its request for some export refunds to be investigated in Dublin is being followed up, we are asked to make clear, and we accept, that both the board and its subsidiary, Kerrygold Ltd, strenuously deny making any false or fraudulent claims. We have agreed to pay the board's solicitors costs.

Freeing of rapist leads to law review

A JUNIOR minister in the Irish government yesterday promised an early report on mandatory jail sentences for rapists after an 18-year-old sex attacker walked free from court.

Women's groups called for mandatory jail sentences after the judge's decision and the 18-year-old woman at the centre of the case said she had been let down by the whole justice system. "I just can't put my life back together again. There is no hope until something is done about this," she said on Irish radio.

William O'Dea, a junior justice minister, said he personally would want to move towards mandatory sentences for rapists. He said the Law Reform Commission would have a discussion paper on mandatory sentences ready in the next eight weeks.

"My own personal preference would be to move in that direction. Maybe not to have a statutory requirement that there be mandatory sentences, but certainly something along the lines of guidelines or directives," he said. "I sincerely hope that the unfortunate victim of this horror can put her life back together."

The Rape Crisis Centre called for mandatory jail sentences for rapists. The woman, from Kilkenny, said

after the judge's decision to free the rapist that she felt as if she had been raped again. She spoke of the rape in the early hours of January 1st last.

"He raped me not just once but several times and beat me up. He threatened me not to say anything to anybody. My life was turned upside down. When they took me to a doctor she examined me and she found bruises everywhere, on my back, on my face, and on my private parts. I took an overdose at the end of January because I just felt that nothing was going to be done and I just felt so dirty and so guilty that I couldn't go on with my life anymore."

The young woman said she wanted to do the same after the court's verdict. "I had to be removed from the court. I just sat there and cried and I got very, very upset. I just couldn't believe it. He might as well have raped me again. I felt like I should never have reported it in the first place."

Mr Justice Feargus Flood adjourned sentence for a year on William Conry, from Jenkinstown, co. Kilkenny, after he pleaded guilty to raping the woman on January 1st last. The woman had to be helped from the Central Criminal Court in Dublin when the judge freed the rapist on Wednesday.

Intruder seized in Buckingham Palace

A man who walked into Buckingham Palace after scaling its walls was being questioned by police last night. The intruder, in his early twenties, was seized in a corridor while the Queen and Prince Edward were in the building. The man activated a security alarm as he climbed the wall near an area known as the Garden Gate on Constitution Hill during the afternoon.

Royal protection officers chased the man as he went into the palace and he was arrested minutes later. He is being questioned by police at Bow Street, Westminster. A palace spokeswoman, who confirmed the Queen and Prince Edward were in the building at the time, said the intruder was not armed.

Stamp man cleared

The former chairman of the stamp dealer Stanley Gibbons was yesterday cleared of heading a plot to dupe stamp collectors into buying fake rarities, deliberately printed with errors to increase their value. After a three-month trial at Southwark Crown Court a jury took just over four hours to clear Clive Feigenbaum. He had claimed that Commonwealth stamps produced with his authority under open contracts with colonial governments were valid reprints to meet demand from collectors in specialist fields. The prosecution had alleged that he led a fraud in which errors were deliberately printed on new issues in order to advertise them as mistakes that had escaped checks. Mr Feigenbaum, owner of Format International Security Printers, denied having anything to do with producing bogus errors.

Tornados' close shave

Four RAF fighters had a near escape yesterday when two Tornado F3 fighters touched in mid air over the North Sea about 20 miles northeast of Newcastle upon Tyne. The jets, on routine training sorties, were flying at 400mph when one passed so closely over the top of the other that its underside was scraped by the lower aircraft's tail. Three RAF search and rescue helicopters were scrambled and two accompanying Tornados escorted the fighters to Newcastle airport, where both landed safely. One was doused in foam by airport fire crews and witnesses reported seeing cracks in the cockpit canopy of one of the aircraft, which were based at RAF Leeming in North Yorkshire although from different squadrons. The defence ministry has set up an enquiry into the incident.

Hunt protesters jailed

Six men were jailed for between 12 and 15 months for their part in a violent anti-hunting protest when saboteurs threw rocks at the home of the Cheshire Beagle Hunt's kennels master. All had admitted or been convicted of violent disorder. Eight others were given suspended three-month prison sentences for threatening behaviour. The protest, on February 11, 1991, came two days after the death of Mike Hill, a saboteur, who was run over when he fell off a pick-up trailer being driven by Alan Summersgill, the kennels master, Knutsford Crown Court, Cheshire, was told. Judge Egan Edwards told them: "Everyone is entitled to views, correct views or wrong views as the case may be. But no one is entitled in this country to seek to impose their views on other people by the use of violence or the threat of violence."

Footballer's degree

Gary Lineker, the England soccer captain, and the comedian Lenny Henry yesterday joined the growing band of celebrities with honorary degrees. Both received MAs, Lineker from Leicester University, and Henry from Warwick. Among this week's other honorary graduates are Terry Waite, at Sussex University, and Neil Kinnock, at the University of Wales. Neither Mr Lineker nor Mr Henry encountered the student opposition promised tomorrow when Mr Kinnock receives his honour in Cardiff shortly before attending the Labour conference to elect his successor as party leader. A students' union spokesman said: "We have always opposed the awarding of these degrees because they degrade the degrees for which students have to work for three or more years."

Leading article, page 15

Anglers fear fee rise

Many of the four million anglers in England and Wales may have to pay more for their sport under a plan proposed by the National Rivers Authority to raise funds for improving the quality of fisheries. The authority wants to increase spending from £24 million to £33 million by 1995, mainly by levying a charge on fishery owners that would replace the rates some now pay to local authorities. However, an estimated two thirds of fishery owners do not pay local authority rates, and anglers fear they may try to recoup the cost of the levy by charging anglers more for fishing permits.

Kevin O'Grady, the authority's head of fisheries, said: "Very little of the money that goes to local authorities is actually spent on fisheries. Under our proposal, fishery owners would be getting a clear benefit and much better value for their money." The authority will meet angling organisations and other interested parties on July 30 to discuss the proposal and ask them to respond with written comments by September 18. The aim is to introduce the levy next year. It is intended that it should cover 27 per cent of fishery service expenditure.

TV satire criticised

BBC2's *The Mary Whitehouse Experience* has been censured by Lord Rees-Mogg's Broadcasting Standards Council for explicit jokes about masturbation and oral sex, as well as an "offensive" sketch about the mentally ill.

Complaints about two episodes of the satirical comedy series were upheld by the council just one day after BBC2 revealed plans to broadcast jokes about women, racial minorities and homosexuals in a new discussion series which will debate the effects of "political correctness" in humour, among other issues. Lord Rees-Mogg, above, who last week described television as an "alien force dominated by male fantasies and attitudes", also said he was "worried by the offence alternative comedy programmes, which are reliant on breaking taboos, can cause."

The council criticised *The Mary Whitehouse Experience* yesterday for allowing one of its contributors to describe one of the characters in the film *Truly Madly Deeply* as a "nut". In another episode, the programme "went beyond the limits of acceptability" with sexually-explicit jokes at a time when large numbers of children might be watching.

Ex-colonel held

A former colonel in the Mexican army wanted in connection with the murder of David Wilson, 47, an accountant from Chorley, Cheshire, has been arrested in New York. Hector Portillo, said to be the cousin of a former Mexican president, was held yesterday by US customs officers. Lancashire police are still hunting the two masked men who shot Mr Wilson in the garage of his home in March. Det Supt Bob Demick, leading the investigation, said that despite the arrest, the search for the two murderers was continuing. Mr Portillo is expected to appear before a court in New York and extradition discussions have begun between the Crown Prosecution Service and the American authorities. The murder investigation has so far led police to Mexico, Holland, Venezuela and the United States.

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Release wants change in laws that are consistently broken

Drug agency calls for cannabis cafes

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

CANNABIS cafes and other licensed drug clubs should be set up under new laws which would no longer ban some drugs, a report recommended yesterday.

Release, the drugs and legal advice agency, suggests that cannabis and other drugs such as Ecstasy and amyl nitrates (poppers) would be sold in certain places. Cannabis is openly allowed now in Amsterdam coffee shops.

The change would allow drug quality to be monitored, consumer protection and trading standards to be imposed and the introduction of taxation on recreational drugs which would provide funds for health, education and welfare for those in need.

Release, celebrating the 25th anniversary of its founding in 1967, said that drug prohibition had failed and that a "leap of imagination" was needed to decriminalise illicit drugs, introduce legislation to regulate the supply of

drugs and provide consumer protection, research, education and community care programmes.

Mike Ashton, chairman of Release, said: "We need a phased, careful and monitored move away from prohibition towards a regulated system of the supply of prohibited drugs aimed not at minimising harm but at minimising it."

He said that opposing the drug laws was not the same as favouring drugs. "We believe that the law as it stands lacks credibility and in many cases lacks public confidence," Mr Ashton told a press conference at the Law Society in London. The report by Release said that, since the law was ignored, which it was time to create a workable and convincing alternative to prohibition that would not punish people for using or possessing drugs for their own use or for normal small scale social transactions.

Among Release's suggestions are that drug users should be registered and supplied with a ration card and that the range of drugs available on medical prescription should be widened. Specific drugs could be sold in licensed premises where they would be consumed and where entrance would be by ticket or membership card.

The Release report said that decriminalisation must be accompanied by legislation to regulate supply, restrictions on the use of drugs when driving, measures to prevent the supply of drugs without licensing, and quality control systems and warnings about the drug's effects.

Release's report is an attempt to set off a debate on reform of the laws, which officials in the Home Office, senior police officers and drug agencies know are consistently broken. An estimated one million to 1.5 million people use cannabis, at any one time, according to the 1984 British Crime Survey.



Present hopes: Caroline Coon, co-founder of Release, announcing the agency's new campaign

Mothers lose case on income support

BRITAIN'S income support system, which can leave single parents better off on the dole than working, is not a breach of European Community sex discrimination laws, the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg ruled yesterday.

The judges rejected the cases of Patricia Cresswell, a divorced mother of two, and Sonia Jackson, an unmarried mother, who both claimed that social security department regulations made it financially impossible to work. The verdict is a blow to the Child Poverty Action Group, which estimates that about one million mothers cannot afford to go to work because of the scheme.

The group backed the case of Mrs Cresswell, from Exeter, Devon, who began legal action after finding that she was £10 a week poorer when she started work as a graphic designer at Exeter University than she had been on state benefits. Miss Jackson, 28, from London, had been receiving income support to help with her four-year-old child when she began a Manpower Services Commission training course and received a weekly allowance. She was not entitled to continue receiving income support.

Both women were challenging the Social Security Act of 1986 which, unlike the 1976 Supplementary Benefit Act it replaced, does not allow child-minding expenses to be deducted from part-time earnings when assessing levels of benefit.

The court said that the issue was not covered by EC directives on equal treatment regarding access to work and social security. The directives applied to statutory schemes providing protection against the risk of sickness, invalidity, old age, accidents at work, occupational diseases and unemployment, but did not refer to a statutory scheme that provides people with a special benefit to enable them to meet their needs.

EC rules on equal treatment for access to employment did not cover national calculations for benefit based on actual earnings. The fact that the calculating method might affect a single mother's ability to take up vocation training or part-time work was not sufficient to amount to a breach of the rules, the court said.

Mrs Cresswell, 40, who is now recovering from cancer, had been paying £25 for child-minding for her youngest son, Toby, now six, while she worked. She could offset only £15 of her weekly income against DSS allowances.

A department appeals tribunal passed her claim to the Court of Appeal, which referred the case to the European court.

A quarter century on, the high and mighty rally again to the cause

IN A world of Ecstasy, raves and crack wars, concern about legalising cannabis may seem marginal and anachronistic, but it remains a contentious issue. Its opponents say that it would be the first step on the path to perdition; its defenders that it is less harmful than alcohol, let alone tobacco.

Release, which next week starts its campaign to legalise the drug, will argue that prohibition has "promoted criminality, conflict and more harm to the individual and to society than its use ever has". The drug remains illegal and those caught selling large quantities still face a 14-year jail sentence.

The Release campaign will include a full-page advertisement in *The Times* next week. Twenty-five years ago, on July 24, 1967, *The Times* carried another full-page advertisement, declaring: "the law against marijuana is immoral in principle and unworkable in practice". What gave that advertisement its cachet was not its rhetoric, which included a lengthy quotation from the seventeenth century Dutch philosopher Spinoza, but the list of 66 signatories, who suggested to the home secretary a five-point plan:

- There should be more government research into cannabis.
- Smoking on private premises should be decriminalised.
- Cannabis should be controlled by a new law, and distinguished from such

Jonathon Green on the anniversary of a futile fight for legality that has allied pop stars and politicians

"hard" drugs as heroin.

□ Possession should be downgraded from felony to misdemeanour.

□ Those already jailed for private possession should be pardoned.

The subscribers to those suggestions made up an intriguing mix: the Beatles, David Hockney, Graham Greene, the psychiatrists R.D. Laing and David Cooper, Ken Kesey, David Bailey, Jonathan Miller, George Melly and David Dastmalchian, a socialist writer. Jonathan Aitken and Brian Walden, a future MP, both then writing for the *Daily Express*, and Tom Driberg, *Express* promises a similar list 25 years on.

The original advertisement was backed by the Society of Mental Awareness (Soma being the name of the drug that fuelled Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*). It was the brainchild of Steve Abrams, an American postgraduate based in Oxford. Popular mythology has linked the advertisement to the arrest of various members of the Rolling Stones, but in fact the trigger was the arrest and

Past glories: Caroline Coon in 1967 and the *Times* advert of that year

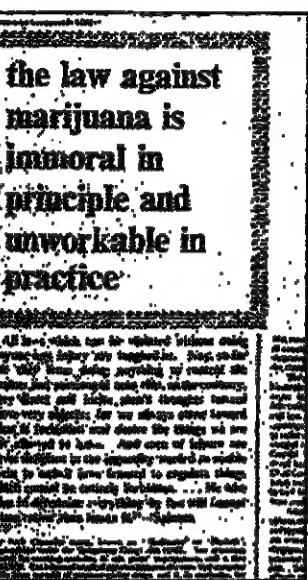
subsequent jailing for possession of cannabis of John Hopkins, better known as Hoppy, a leading counter-cultural activist.

One of the stimuli for the advertisement in *The Times* was that William Rees-Mogg, who had become editor in 1966, had noted Mick Jagger's arrest (for a handful of properly prescribed pep pills) and on July 1, 1967, had written a celebrated editorial — Who Breaks A Butterfly On A Wheel? — in defence of the singer.

The perception was that the Thunderer had come out in favour of the counter culture. Paul McCartney, already a

generous friend to the "alternative society", provided £1,800 to pay for the advertisement. Interviewed in 1987, Mr McCartney recalled: "At the time it didn't seem in the least bit radical. But now, to imagine that Jonathan Aitken came round and enlisted my support..."

Mr Aitken was then best known as the author of a series in the *Evening Standard* on Swinging London, and of *The Young Meteors*, which ran through the personalities of what was still known, quite without irony, as "the new aristocracy". In this role, he had met Mr Abrams when both were ap-



DNA. George Kiloh, the chairman of the then fashionable Young Liberals and Mr Walden, whose concern stemmed from his interest in an addictions centre in his constituency. All, including the Beatles, were names who did not normally sign petitions.

The advertisement helped to focus the Wootton committee, assembled to consider the status of cannabis. Its report, published in 1969, affirmed that the drug was not harmful and called for suitable action. It was not taken. Soma disbanded a year later: there was nothing else, Mr Abrams felt, that he could do.

Among the original signatories still alive, views are generally unchanged. Dr Brian Inglis continues to believe that cannabis is infinitely less dangerous than alcohol or tobacco. "My feelings are unchanged. I believe very much that it's a thing you should decide for yourself. I think that it should certainly be decriminalised, though I don't think there is any chance of this happening. I don't think that any government would dare to do it."

As to its potential links with harder drugs, he says: "Cannabis only automatically leads to heroin in the sense that beer leads on to whisky. If you mix with people who do these things, you are more likely to meet somebody who also uses the harder drugs, but there is no medical proof of any links. It doesn't inco-

reably lure you into worse things. It's perfectly easy to stay on pot."

Other veterans of 1967 are equally unrepentant. Dr Miller stresses, as does Release's advertisement, that bans and repression lead not to the desired collapse of the drug market, but rather to an intensification of its under-the-counter supply. George Melly says: "Punitive measures support a large criminal network and accompany violence, death and mutilation."

However, Mr Aitken, now a government minister, has changed his views. "The *Times* advert was well-meaning but tremendously misunderstood," he says. "It did not call for legalisation, but many people misunderstood it deliberately. I am against legalisation and always have been."

Mr Aitken is probably on safe ground. Although Simon Jenkins, editor of *The Times*, said on a *Panorama* programme last month that he believed that liberalisation must come in time, saying that, "you cannot enforce the law where there is no consent", there is neither the social nor political will to make the change. As Dr Inglis suggests: "Governments have much more pressing things on their minds."

Jonathan Green is author of *Days in the Life*, a history of British counter-culture, and a signatory to the Release advertisement.

Trust man resigns

By ALISON ROBERTS

THE chairman of an NHS trust in Bristol resigned yesterday as the trust's board met to discuss allegations that two patients died as a result of staff shortages.

Philip Chubb, chief executive of the trust, said yesterday that a detailed investigation into the allegations was being carried out but "so far we have no evidence to support them". A spokesman for the health department said that the matter was being dealt with locally but it would be keeping in close contact with the hospital and monitoring the progress of the enquiry.

The resignation of Colin Williams, the chairman, comes three days after the manager responsible for junior medical staff at Southmead Hospital stepped down. Local union representatives are urging staff to pass a motion of no confidence in the entire management. Rog-

er Berry, MP for Kingswood, called for a public statement on what went wrong at the hospital.

"Those who live in the area serviced by Southmead are wanting some assurance that the problems that appear to have led to the resignation of two very senior people are dealt with."

Southmead was thrown into crisis last week when three junior doctors and a registrar spoke out about low staffing levels which, they said, were putting patients at risk, particularly at night. Two patients had died before being seen and after several hours in hospital, they said.

Arrangements for securing adequate locum cover were particularly criticised by the doctors and by Tom Frewin, the area British Medical Association representative. The trust board announced a review of the system.

Baby vaccine can save lives

FROM NIGEL HAWKES IN LYONS

THE lives of up to 65 children a year should be saved by a vaccine that the health department is expected to introduce into Britain in October.

Given as part of the routine vaccinations at two, three and four months, the new vaccine will protect against infections caused by the haemophilus influenzae type B bacterium, known as Hib. In spite of its name, the bacterium has nothing to do with flu: its most serious consequence is bacterial meningitis, which affects 900 infants a year. Of these, 65 die and perhaps 150 suffer permanent brain damage. Hib also causes epiglottitis and septicaemia.

Production of the vaccine is under way at the Lyons factory of Pasteur Merieux, which is expected to share the British market with a rival product made by Praxis-

Lederle. In Finland, where vaccination against Hib disease has been in use since 1987, infections have fallen from about 200 a year to only 12 last year.

Although the drug companies do not know when vaccination will begin in Britain, they are working hard to produce 2.1 million doses to treat all those children born after October 1. Additional doses will be needed for older children, up to the age of four, who will be given a single shot. After the age of four, Hib infections seldom occur. The vaccine will not eliminate meningitis, since Hib is not the only cause of the disease, though it is the most important.

□ The lives of patients with suspected meningitis could be saved if GPs gave them an immediate injection of penicillin before calling an ambulance, according to two studies in the *British Medical Journal*.

The death rate fell from 24 per cent to zero when penicillin was given immediately, according to a study in Darlington, co. Durham. A second study in England recorded a fall in mortality from 9 per cent to 5 per cent.

□ A low dosage of aspirin taken regularly for a period of five years reduces the risk of surgery to clear blocked arteries, according to research to be published in *The Lancet* today. A study carried out on more than 22,000 healthy male doctors shows that a dosage of 325mg of aspirin taken on alternate days prevents the formation of limb thrombosis.

Health, L&T section, page 5

STOP PRESS FRANCE — WITH THE TIMES AND LBC

Each week throughout the summer, *The Times* and LBC will bring you news of last-minute bargains available for travellers to France. The latest information on bookings, flights, traffic delays and holiday ideas



LBC NEWS TALK 97.3

OFFERS

□ Sealink has three-night breaks to France for £222 a person, including travel by ferry, accommodation in a French manor house at Fontenay-Tresigny near Paris, and a one-day Euro Disney

pass. Keycamp Holidays is offering discounts of up to £150 on selected 12-night mobile home holidays throughout France.

FLIGHTS

□ Air UK has plenty of seats available on flights over the weekend to Nice from Stansted, and to Paris from Leeds, Newcastle, Aberdeen and Stansted. British Midland has lots of space on flights to Paris and Nice. Dan-Air has good availability on all its French routes. T.A.T. reports heavy bookings on all flights this weekend from Gatwick to Paris and Lyon, but there are seats available on flights from Stansted to Brive, Tours and Poitiers.

FERRIES

□ P&O has little space on morning crossings from Dover to Ostend and Boulogne, and all its sailings from Portsmouth to Le Havre and Cherbourg are busy. Sally Line has limited availability on sailings from Ramsgate in the latter part of next week. Brittany Ferries has passenger space only on most of its evening sailings from Portsmouth, Poole and Plymouth over the next week.

RAILWAYS

□ SNCF motorail trains have sleeping accommodation available on all routes from Boulogne this weekend. For non-motorists, TGV

trains will be running overnight from Lille to the Riviera on Friday and Sunday evenings from now until August 23.

RATES

□ Travelers report that the franc has remained strong against sterling this week. Exchange rates for the franc are between 10.11 and 10.15 when buying and 9.26 and 9.30 when selling.

The *Times* journalist Peter Brown will be interviewed by Angela Rippon on LBC *NEWSTALK's Drivetime* programme on Thursday, July 23, at 6.50pm.

Passport to France L&T section, page 4

THE CONRAN SHOP

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Campaign seeks ban on child arcade gambling

A LEGAL ban on children playing fruit machines before the bright lights of amusement arcades lure them into a lifetime of addictive gambling and petty crime was demanded yesterday in an appeal to the prime minister.

Backed by 44 MPs and 36 Euro MPs, the Amusement Arcade Action Group launched a drive to stop children under 18 gambling away a figure currently put at £50 million a year on the machines.

According to official statistics, an estimated 1.5 million children regularly play machines in Britain, the only country in Europe which allows minors to gamble. The Home Office said yesterday it had no plans for further controls.

At present, local authorities control the arcades through by-laws that have to be approved by the Home Office, but these do not enforce an age limit and many councils still do not have specific local legislation.

Robert Davis, a Westminster city councillor and chairman of the action

Michael Horsnell looks at the dark side of the bright lights in arcades where children spend £50m a year

group, said: "The present laws and controls are totally unsatisfactory and until local authorities are granted the necessary clout to control the operation and proliferation of amusement arcades, young people will continue to be at risk."

Among the 250,000 regular machine players the campaigners are concerned for is Daniel, aged 12. For him and his friends Clacton-on-Sea's Golden Hundred Yards, opposite the pier, is a gambling paradise.

Daniel spends at least £10 a week on the fruit machines at the Essex resort. Money given to him by his parents though he makes extra money "working on the market" on Saturdays. He is something of a beginner compared with

his friend Wayne, who spends £30 a week jabbing the button with practised ease as the lights flicker towards the jackpot, but Wayne is 14 and earns money "stacking shelves".

Neither of them, nor their friends, Jason and Simon, both 13, understands addiction, but someone who does is Jim Glynn, 25. He hopes legislation banning children from gambling until the age of 18 is introduced before it is too late for Daniel and his friends. A ban might have stopped Mr Glynn, a Londoner, from an addiction which led to about 70 convictions and three prison sentences for theft, burglary, fraud and deception.

He said: "I started on the machines at 13, getting hooked. I couldn't help it. It plays on your mind, the lights and the noise. I started off taking a tenner from my mother's purse and then it was a case of stripping the house, selling everything when she was out, the TV, the video, fridge, hi-fi, and my brother's toys. By the time I was 14 I even sold a carpet

when she went shopping for £20."

Mr Glynn, who now lives on £42 a week "dole money" at Gordon House in Beckenham, Kent, a voluntary hostel for ex-offenders with a gambling fixation, was sent to a special boarding school in an unsuccessful attempt to break his habit.

He said: "I haven't gambled now for ten days and it's painful. But you have to help yourself. I have known what it is like to go without food for days because I've spent all my money on the fruit machines. It's a sickness. I've ruined my life."

From an extrapolation of Home Office figures, Dr Emanuel Moran, chairman of the National Council on Gambling, says that 26 per cent of children aged 10-16 gamble on fruit machines and that of those, more than 300,000 do so until they have run out of money. About 250,000 regularly gamble unaccompanied by adults. He also believes that another 200,000 children spend "most" of their money on fruit machines.



Game of risk: fruit machines can become addictive and lead children to steal to finance their habit

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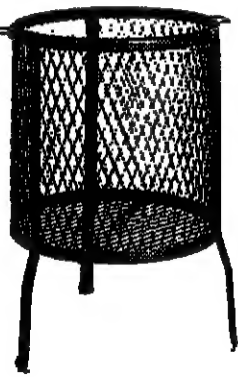
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Bulldog Rapid Incinerator £22-99
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Victoriana Pivot Shower Door Gold Finish Frame £229-00

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Polycell Polyclens 1 Litre £3-99
£2-79 SAVE £1-20

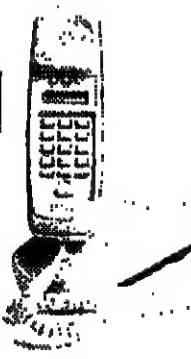
Polycell Polystrippa 1 Litre £5-89
£3-99 SAVE £1-90



Minstral Plus Telephone Available in Alpine White, Grey Marble and Polar White £25-95

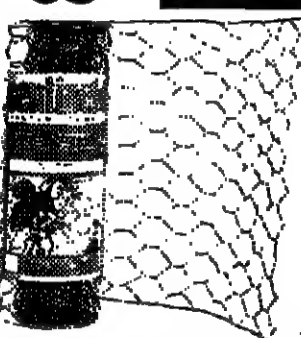
£17-95

SAVE £8-00



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£7-65 SAVE £3-30



(Also available in 13mm and 25mm gauge. See in store for prices.)

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£5-69 SAVE £3-00



Dulux Interior and Exterior Woodsheen 2.5 Litre £21-99

£15-39 SAVE £6-60



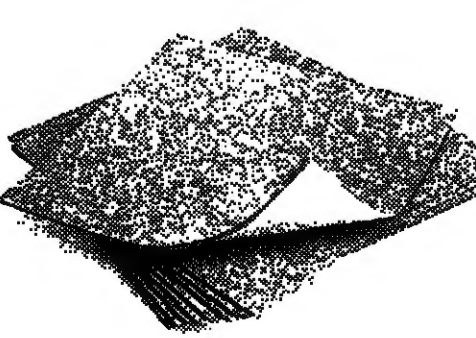
Sphere Light White 60 watt £7-99

£5-49 SAVE £2-50



Quickfix Cork Floor Tiles Pack of 9 £9-99

£6-29 SAVE £2-70



Metpost Fence Support 2" x 2" x 18" £4-49

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Stolen kiss led man to kill himself

A MAN overcome with shame after being caught kissing a friend's wife at the couple's house-warming party in May gassed himself to death in his car, an inquest in south London was told yesterday.

Simon Blackley, 23, a postman of Lee, south London, was caught kissing Karen Roos, 25, in the kitchen of her Eltham home by her husband Lee Barnes, 22. Hours later, after being ejected from the house by Mr Barnes, he was found dead in a public garage near his home.

Sir Montague Levine, the Southwark coroner, recording a verdict that Mr Blackley had killed himself, said that a note had been found on his body which disclosed he felt a deep sense of shame.

Sweet victory

NutraSweet accepted substantial undisclosed libel damages and costs in the High Court over articles in *The Guardian* which wrongly suggested some of the laboratory test results it submitted to the US Food and Drug Administration in the early 1970s had been faked.

Sale falls flat

Sir Winston Churchill's former Westminster flat in Morpeth Terrace failed to reach its reserve price of £300,000 at an auction in Mayfair yesterday. Bidding stopped at £297,500, and the property was withdrawn by the agents.

Family escapes

Christine Hunter, victim of a hate-mail campaign, saved her sons Sean, six months, and Gary, six, when a petrol bomb was thrown through a window into their home in Nottingham early yesterday.

On the cards

The board of the British Library is to decide today whether to charge for access to the collections.

Letters, page 15

Released patients 'better off'

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

ONLY 1 per cent of long-stay mental patients discharged from hospital into the community end up sleeping rough, a study shows. It runs counter to claims that the policy of clearing the long-stay hospitals has made many people homeless.

Of 500 patients discharged from Friern and Claybury hospitals in north London since 1985 to about 100 houses in the community, doctors and social workers have lost touch with only six. "We assume they are sleeping rough," Professor Julian Leff, of the Institute of Psychiatry, and leader of the study, said. "But the number is very much lower than people feared." Nearly all of the rest were living in flats or group homes.

Presenting the results of the study at a conference in London yesterday, Professor Leff said that those discharged had a better quality of life than those who remained in hospital. They made more friends, were more active and were less apathetic.

Studies show that a third of the so-called "rough sleepers" are suffering from some mental illness, mainly schizophrenia, but they do not come from the long-stay wards. The reason for their sudden visibility on the streets was the decline in cheap rented housing and the closure of large hostels for the homeless, Professor Leff said.

A city upbringing may cause schizophrenia in susceptible men, according to a report in *The Lancet*. A survey of 49,000 Swedish conscripts found that those brought up in cities were 65 per cent more likely to develop schizophrenia than those from rural backgrounds. The authors speculate that city life may expose children to a greater risk of viral infections and head injuries.

Simple slogans fool the green gardener

By PETER VICTOR

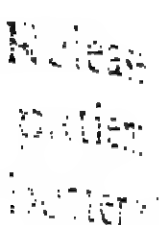
GARDENERS buying products sold as environmentally friendly are sometimes misled by slogans on packaging, says the Consumers' Association, which found certain "green" goods were unsuitable for use by organic growers.

Researchers found that one fertiliser was said to have a natural seaweed base but also contained manufactured chemicals. In its publication *Gardening from Which?*, the association says that products sold as "green" may be so only in one aspect. "A weed-killer might be biodegradable but may take a lot of energy to produce or come in non-recyclable plastic bottles. Sometimes traditional natural products like garden lime are relabelled under a green banner, but it's just a marketing exercise — the products are the same as ever," Alistair Ayres, the editor, said.

"Gardeners should take manufacturers' green claims with a pinch of salt. You can make a real contribution to the environment by avoiding over-packaged products."

Companies are attaching green claims to all manner of products because of the growing market for such goods. Friends of the Earth last year gave its Green Con award to Fisons, which used to sell peat and garden compost, for claiming that peat cutting did not endanger Britain's remaining wetlands. Friends of the Earth has indicated that it would like to see an environmental labelling scheme controlled by government with a long-term analysis of how each product affects the planet.

The Commons environment select committee on the environment has recommended that the government is waiting for European Community legislation. The small businesses but-terfly is the most frequent visitor to English gardens, according to a survey of 580 gardens by the British Butter-ly Conservation Society.



IN WHICH COUNTRY WOULD YOU PLACE THIS POINT?

Riot-hit estate gains stake in £750m fund

By LOUISE HIDALGO

TYNESIDE'S Meadow Well estate, the scene of some of the worst of last September's disturbances, is one of 20 inner-city areas to benefit this year from a share of the government's £750 million City Challenge programme to aid the regeneration of deprived urban areas, it was announced yesterday.

Announcing winners from the 54 local authorities that bid for a share of funds under the scheme's second round, Michael Howard, the environment secretary, praised the quality, enthusiasm and vision of the widely differing projects. They confirmed, he said, the "value of competition" as a spur to partnership between the public and private sectors and the community to rebuild blighted areas.

"The high quality of the City Challenge bids has confounded the sceptics and laid the basis for dramatic change in some of the most rundown areas of our cities," he said.

All but three of the 57 councils participating in the environment department's urban programme applied for funds under the scheme, pioneered

14 months ago by the then environment secretary, Michael Heseltine. The 20 winners, each of whom is to receive £37.5 million in government grants over the next five years, are: Barnsley, Birmingham, Blackburn, Bolton, Brent, Derby, Hackney, Hartlepool, Kensington and Chelsea, Kirkcaldy, Lambeth, Leicester, Newham, North Tyneside, Sandwell, Sefton, Stockton, Sunderland, Walsall and Wigan.

The minister also announced four new inner-city task forces, for Birmingham, Haringey, Plymouth and Stockton.

Labour said that City Challenge produced a "minority of winners and a majority of losers". David Blunkett, Labour's local government spokesman, said that the programme would "exacerbate increasing deprivation in many areas and hide the overall reduction in government spending on the areas most affected".

In North Tyneside, however, there was jubilation yesterday over the winning bid. The council had been private-

ly advised that it would be wasting its time in seeking funds under the scheme after ministerial criticism of it last year following the riots at Meadow Well, North Shields.

The funding is to be used for an ambitious programme of shopping and community facilities, training and business development, with the creation of 3,000 jobs and several hundred homes on Meadow Well and in other areas. Projects include a child-care training centre.

"We are going to put a new heart into Meadow Well," a spokesman said. The council hopes to attract £123 million in private investment.

Another winner, Birmingham city council, which last year unsuccessfully bid for the £400 million awarded to 11 local authorities in the scheme's first round, said that its award would mean 4,000 new jobs and a training programme for 400 people each year. "In the past, the government has praised us with words and now they have done it with cash," Ken Barton, who led the bid, said.



Pump-priming: firemen in action last year after rioting on the Meadow Well estate, now to gain from government City Challenge grants

Councils seeking extra £2.1 bn told to tighten their belts

By JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government yesterday ruled out any big increase in local authority resources to fund its community care policy or the implementation of the council tax next year.

Michael Howard, environment secretary, rejected a £2.1 billion bid from local council organisations to fund both policies, arguing that

councils would need to tighten their belts alongside other spending departments.

"An increase on this scale is out of the question. Public spending increases must be restrained and local government will have to play its part," Mr Howard said. "Local authorities will need to curtail their spending plans to stay within the limits of what the country and local taxpayers can afford."

At a meeting with Michael Howard and other ministers,

local government representatives claimed that £1 billion was needed to fund the policy of caring for elderly and mentally handicapped people in the community, which comes into effect next April.

The negotiators also called for another £900,000 to fund a shortfall on the 7.5 per cent pay award for teachers this year and the 6.5 per cent for the police, as well as introducing changes in the national curriculum and the council

tax. Mr Howard said the total bid amounted to £45.5 billion, which represented an increase of 13 per cent more than the government believed was needed to maintain services, once the new policies had been taken into account.

However local authorities immediately said that if councils failed to provide adequate services, the blame would lie at the government's door.

The consultative council on local government finance,

held annually as part of the public expenditure round, was attended by the Association of County Councils, the London Boroughs Association, the Association of District Councils and the Association of Metropolitan Authorities.

The government will not publish its detailed resource allocations until the autumn, partly due to the difficulties over funding the community care policy.

Shipyard overruns on time and cost

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A NEW advanced support ship for the Royal Navy is 32 months behind schedule and more than £60 million over budget. The vessel will come into service without a command system or the capability to defend itself against air attack, a report by the National Audit Office said yesterday.

The Ministry of Defence has ordered two auxiliary oiler replenishment vessels, which will supply fuel, stores and ammunition to warships and will also have a helicopter maintenance facility.

Construction of the first vessel, by Harland and Wolff in Northern Ireland, was due to be completed by December 1990 but now the earliest date is the end of 1992, the report said. The cost had also risen from the original contract price of £127 million to about £190 million.

The contract for the second vessel went to Swan Hunter even though its bid was "considerably higher" than the £106.5 million put in by Harland and Wolff. The ministry

felt that in the light of the cost overrun with the first vessel, Harland and Wolff would be unable to build the second one for that price.

George Younger, then defence secretary, directed Sir Peter Levene, chief of defence procurement, to place the contract with Swan Hunter. Harland and Wolff was told to hand over its designs and technical information to Swan Hunter but some of the drawings were delayed, while others were of poor quality. The second vessel is now running four months behind schedule.

Under the original plan, the support vessels were to be fitted with the Sea Wolf missile system. Delays in the development of the command system and difficulties in obtaining parts mean that "both vessels will be without a full air defence capability for some considerable time".

The 1991 Statement on Major Defence Projects, report by the Comptroller and Auditor General, National Audit Office (Stationery Office).

Prescott keeps on fighting

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Prescott was insisting yesterday that he still had a chance of denying Margaret Beckett outright victory as Labour's deputy leader after winning the support of the National Union of Public Employees.

With all but a handful of unions yet to declare their colours for tomorrow's leadership contest, Mr Prescott released figures suggesting that he might take Mrs Beckett to a second ballot. The unions control 40 per cent of the college and Mr Prescott said he was trailing Mrs Beckett by 25 per cent to 12 per cent.

The polls open for the parliamentary party tomorrow at the electoral college at the Royal Horticultural Hall in London and the results will be announced on Thursday.

John Smith, who is certain of a handsome victory in the main contest against Mr Gould, will announce the formation of his new team shortly afterwards. A record 54 MPs are standing for the 18 shadow cabinet places.

Shadow cabinet candidates are: Graham Allen, Hilary Armstrong, Tony Banks, Margaret Beckett, Stuart Bell, Tony Benn, Tony Blair, David Blunkett, Gordon Brown, Dennis Canavan, David Clark, Tom Clarke, Ann Clwyd, Robin Cook, Jack Cunningham, Ron Davies, Donald Dewar, Frank Dobson, Derek Fatchett, Mark Fisher, George Foulkes, John Garrett, Llin Golding, Mervyn Gordon, Bryan Gould, Bernie Grant, Bruce Grocott, Harriet Harman, Barry Jones, Tony Lloyd, Henry McLeish, Kevin McNamara, John Marek, Michael Meacher, Alan Michael, Austin Mitchell, Alf Morris, Marjorie Mowlam, Chris Mullin, Martin O'Neill, John Prescott, Dawn Primarolo, Joyce Quin, Stuart Randall, Jo Richardson, George Robertson, Jeff Rooker, Barry Sheerman, Clare Short, Chris Smith, Clive Soley, Gavin Strang, Jack Straw, Ann Taylor.

MI5 chief considers her reply

Stella Rimington, the head of MI5, is to discuss with the Home secretary whether she should appear before the Commons home affairs select committee in the next parliamentary session.

The committee has written to Mrs Rimington inviting her to appear to explain MI5's responsibilities and to face questions from MPs of all parties about the work of the security service.

£150m HQ

The cost of building the new headquarters for the Secret Intelligence Service in London will be about £150 million, with a further £90 million for adaptation, Douglas Hogg, a Foreign Office minister, said in a written reply.

Olympic trip

John Major, David Mellor, the heritage secretary, Michael Howard, the environment secretary, John Redwood, the local government minister, and Robert Key, the heritage minister, are all going to the Olympic Games which open in Barcelona later this month.

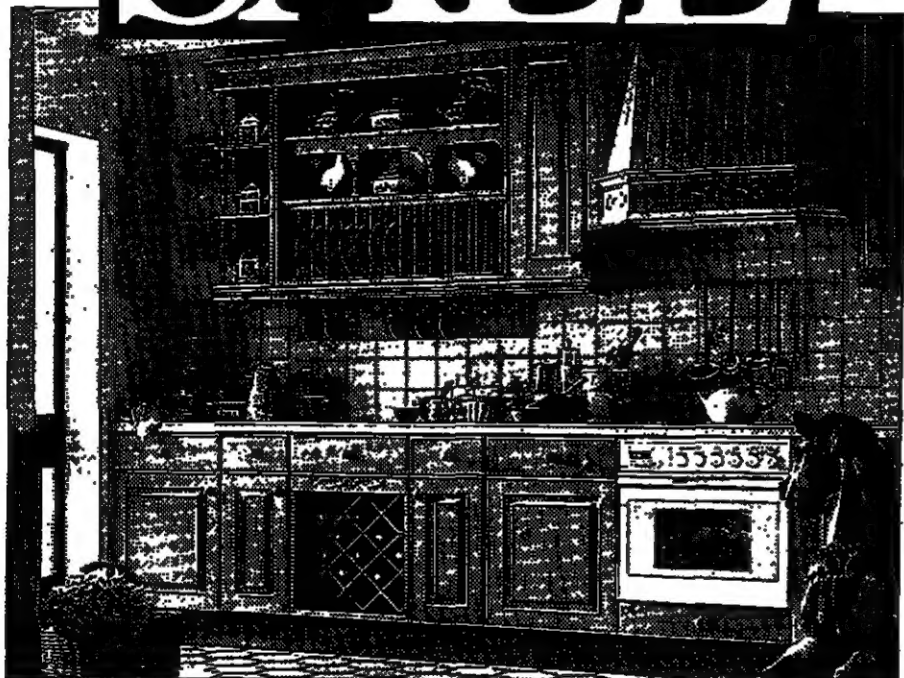
Asylum pleas

About 1,100 people fleeing the fighting in the former state of Yugoslavia have sought asylum in the UK, Charles Wardle, a home office minister, said in a written reply.

Parliament rises

Both Houses of Parliament rose for the summer recess yesterday and return on October 19.

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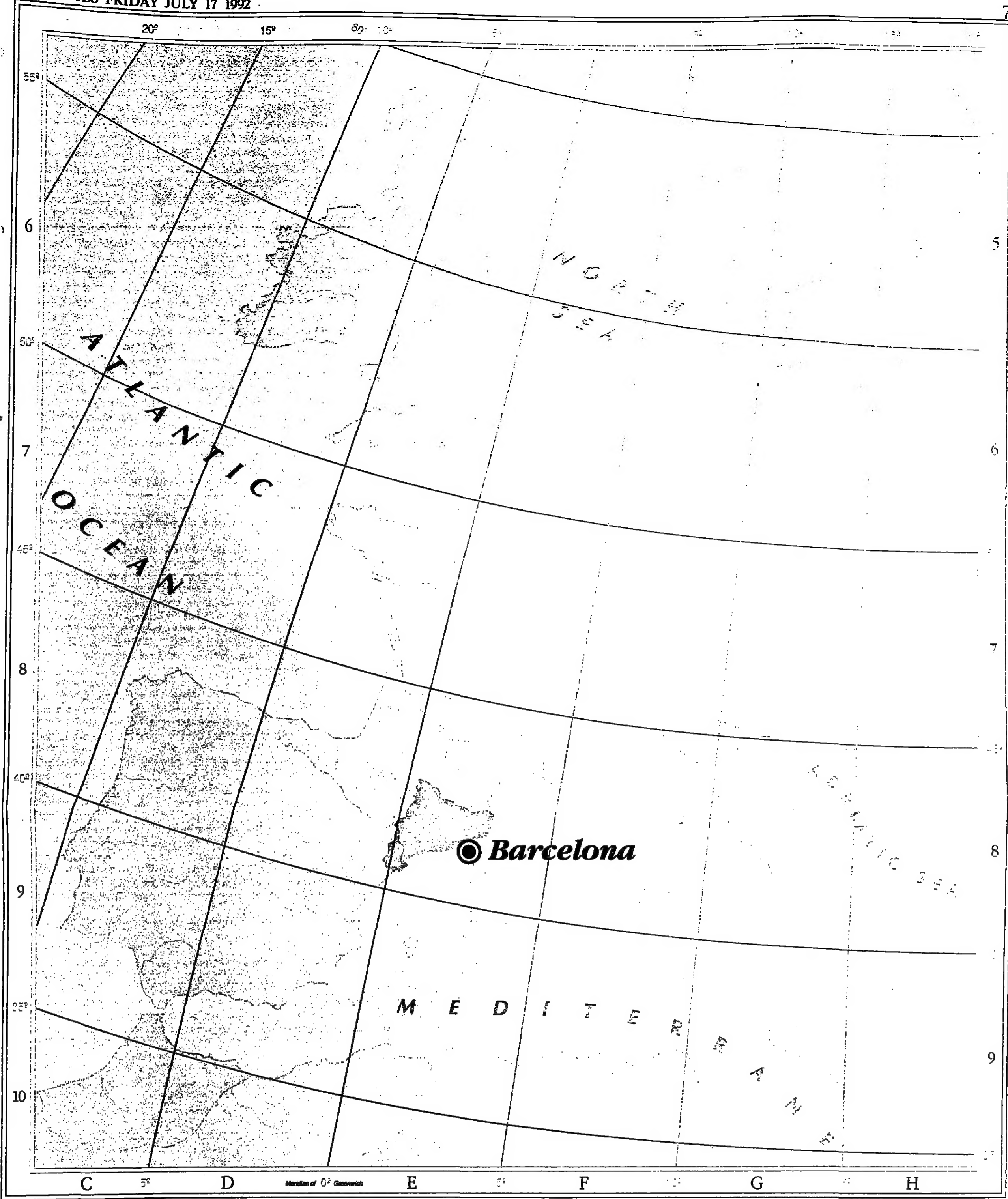
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Norris warns of veto on Docklands Tube

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

THE bluntest warning yet was given yesterday that the government will not sanction the building of the proposed £1.7 billion London Underground line to Canary Wharf unless its new owners put up their share of the bill.

Ministers estimate privately that the Jubilee line extension would add about £750 million to the value of the collapsed property development. They are determined to ensure that whoever takes over Olympia & York's liabilities adheres to the partnership agreement reached with the Canadian group.

They also calculate that under the terms of the deal, the private sector would have only to put in £170 million at today's prices to ensure that the line is built. This would mean that a new owner taking over the complex from the administrators appointed to sort out the collapse would be about £600 million to the good.

The latest ministerial intervention came against the background of a growing suspicion in Whitehall that potential private buyers of

Canary Wharf believe that John Major is so anxious to rescue the Docklands development that he is prepared to waive the private sector contribution. The emphatic message from Steve Norris, a junior transport minister, in the Commons yesterday was that such forecasts were mistaken.

"We have to make it absolutely clear to owners that it is our clear obligation, on behalf of the taxpayer, to insist that there is a contribution," Mr Norris said.

"No one is more committed to the regeneration of Docklands [than the government] but all the government's and London Underground's planning has proceeded on the clear basis that that private sector contribution will be forthcoming."

He added that there was "no prospect of authorising the start of construction unless and until that contribution is assured." Mr Norris said later that prospective buyers were making a "terrible mistake" if they thought the government would waive the contribution.

Ministers calculate that the rental value of the Canary Wharf development would jump from its present level of about £12 a square foot to £25-£30 if the line were built, cutting the journey time from Westminster to less than 20 minutes.

They believe that the premium of £13-£18 a square foot boosts the capital value of the Canary Wharf development by £500-£900 million across its five million square feet of office space.

Under the terms of the partnership agreement between the government and Olympia & York, the private sector has to inject an initial £100 million into the building of the Tube extension, with a remaining £300 million being paid over 24 years, starting from the projected completion of the line in 1997.

Ministers believe that, at present prices, the paper cost of £400 million falls to about £170 million. They insist that a government go-ahead for the line would put a net £600 million in the pockets of a new owner.

Lady Olga accuses schools of failing Christianity

Astrology 'ousting religion'

By ROBERT MORGAN

TRENDY liberalism is swamping the teaching of Christianity in schools, a Tory MP said yesterday. It is leading to a rootless, restless society with no spiritual or moral benchmarks, Lady Olga Maitland told MPs.

The new MP for Sutton and Cheam said that parents, children and teachers were crying out for help and she called on the government to ensure that schools adhere to the requirement in the 1988 Education Act of a daily act of mainly Christian worship.

Lady Olga complained that children were being taught meditation and other "dangerous practices" in the name of religious education and she read letters of complaint from parents about the handling of the subject. One school told parents that pupils were being taken to a Hindu temple where they would not be allowed to wear shoes and that parents should ensure



Lady Olga Maitland: redrawing the moral benchmarks for "rootless society"

that the children's socks would not cause offence.

At another school, the singer Rod Stewart, the actress Raquel Welch, and the snooker player Alex Higgins, were brought in to the

curriculum. At a school at Dudley, West Midlands, astrology and hippy communes were included in lessons. Many children did not know why Christmas, Easter

The government, Lady Olga said, should issue clear guidelines on the content of religious education and give a warning against dangers of meditation techniques.

Derek Enright, the Labour MP for Hemsworth, a Roman Catholic who taught religious education for 20 years, said that he resented a great deal of what Lady Olga had said. No one was going to know who Jesus was or know the gospel or the epistles unless they were brought up with them in the family.

Harry Greenway, the Tory MP for Ealing North and a former head teacher, said that the curriculum for religious education needed to be organised nationally and not left to local whim.

Eric Forth, an education minister, replying to the debate, said that the 1988 act laid down that the curriculum was to be decided locally. Although Christianity was the country's main religion, in some areas it was not. However, he recognised that there was concern, and ministers were taking a serious interest in the issue. When the new school inspection regime was in place next year, it would be better able to check on how religion was being taught.

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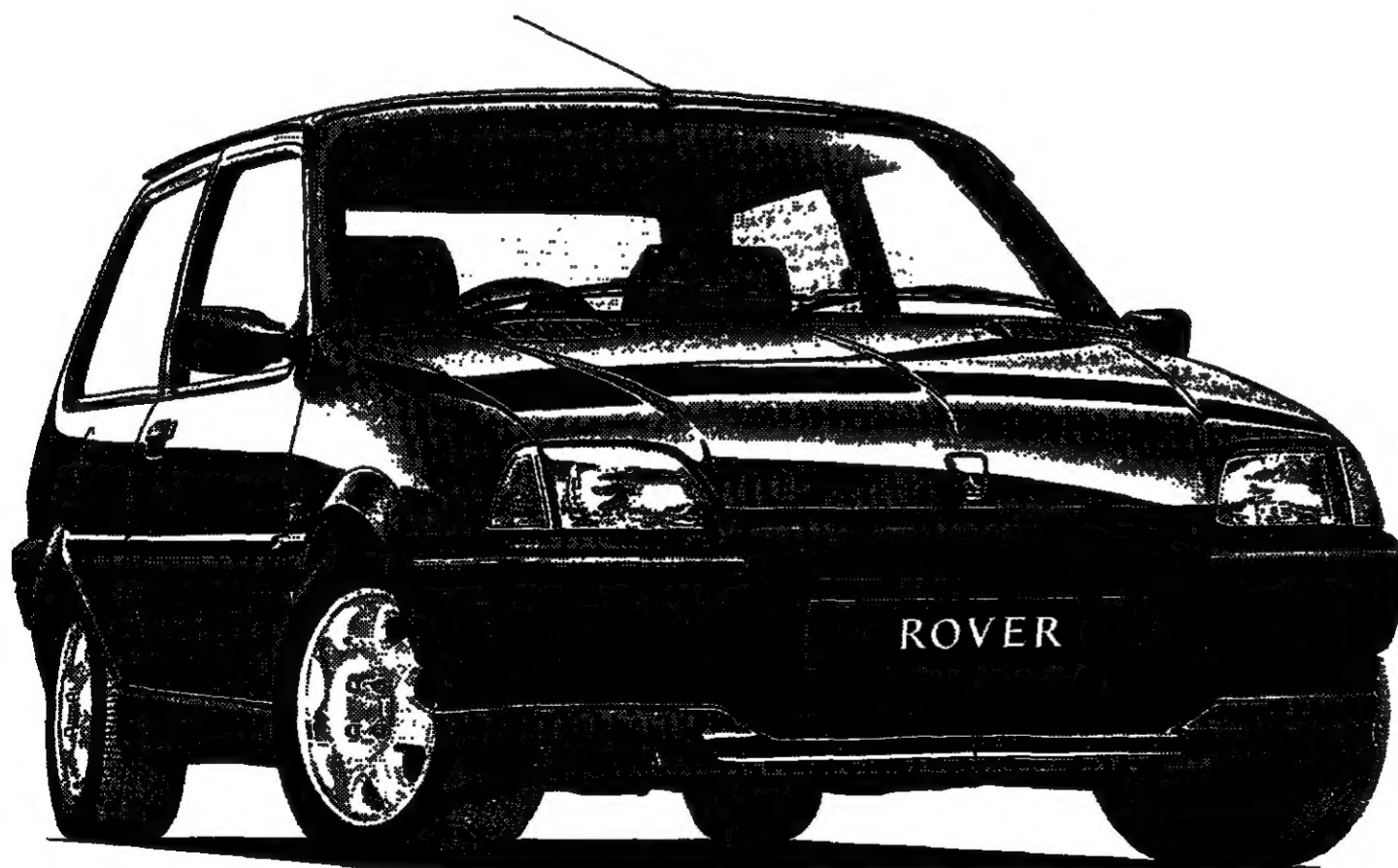
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Car clamping law must be tested, says minister

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

THE government is urgently considering ways of ending the "piracy" of private wheelclamping firms, which have profited unduly from confusion surrounding the law.

Michael Jack, Home Office minister, said there was a need for the law to be clarified, either through the courts or through legislation to limit

the worsening action of the "parking pirates." He said: "We are considering the matter urgently, including the question of whether any action is needed to prohibit or to regulate the use of wheelclamps on private property."

Mr Jack, speaking yesterday in the Commons, insisted that the clampers were not the only people at fault, and said that he could understand the frustrations of landowners who had found motor vehicles blocking their access.

He said that one solution might be to include new rules ensuring that wheelclamping firms posted warning notices before taking action. He would not say how quickly the review would take place, although it is likely to be completed this year.

The issue of private wheelclamping was thrown into confusion last month when the Scottish Court of Judicary decided that the demand for payment for releasing a wheel clamp amounted to "illegal extortion and theft."

Mr Jack said that the law in England and Wales was significantly different from that in Scotland. "It is unfortunate that neither the civil nor criminal law has been tested in the courts," Mr Jack said, adding that there had been difficulties in bringing clamping companies before the courts.

Earlier, John Spellar (Warley West, Lab) complained that "most clampers are judge, jury and court built all rolled into one, and all at the same time." He said that some firms were deliberately enticing unwary motorists by parking undamped vehicles on spare land. Others were offering landowners a commission in return for clamping cars. Some firms were charging £240 to release a clamp.

The police attitude to private wheelclamping had changed since its introduction. Although they originally treated clamping incidents as a minor dispute between two individuals, they were now becoming increasingly concerned about the abuses taking place.

Farm deal attacked by peers

By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Gummer, the agriculture minister, was criticised by a group of peers yesterday for sanctioning a new EC farm deal which, they argued, opened the way for fraud.

Lord Boston of Faversham wrote to Mr Gummer on behalf of the cross-party Lords EC committee warning him that the deal to cut farm subsidies approved by the EC council on June 30 could also work unfairly for British farmers because it was so complex.

After taking evidence from farmers, landowners and the Food and Drink Federation, the peers challenged statements by John Major and Mr Gummer of the benefits won through the compromise deal for Britain. The peers regretted that no simple effective reform of the Common agriculture policy had been produced.

The Lords committee had asked the government to clear any changes in the farm subsidy system with the EC court of auditors to reduce fraud. "They regret that this has not been done," Lord Boston wrote. They were also concerned, he said, that basing calculations on the physical measurements of the number of hectares and the number of animals would lead to difficulties and create opportunities for fraud.

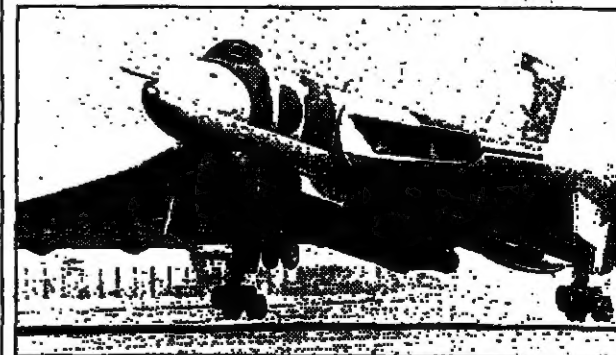
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MP pleads for Vulcan



Wing and a prayer: a Vulcan lifts off from RAF Waddington in Lincolnshire during the Falklands conflict, which temporarily revived the aircraft. Now only one of the 144 heavy bombers remains airworthy, and Harry Greenway, Tory MP for Ealing North, yesterday presented a petition to the Commons describing the aeroplane as a "flying work of art" and asking the gov-

ernment to save it for the nation. He told MPs that the 9,000-signature petition sought to prevent the aircraft being auctioned later this year, as all Vulcans that had been auctioned off before had never flown again. Four of his constituents had organised the national petition "because they believe this entirely British-built bomber should be saved for posterity."

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More safety checks urged for ferries

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

FERRIES operating out of British ports are still not checked regularly for safety faults in many cases, a Commons committee said yesterday. The MPs complained to the transport department that, after the *Herald of Free Enterprise* disaster in 1987, officials did not reach their target for inspecting similar ferries.

In 1989, they carried out general inspections on 36 per cent of passenger ships and 80 per cent of cargo vessels. The next year, only 32 per cent of passenger ships underwent general inspection, although checks on cargo vessels rose to 94 per cent.

The committee, which has a Conservative majority, said: "We expect the department in future to achieve their target of carrying out a full general inspection of each roll-on roll-off ferry at least once a year. We recognise the value of the large number of examinations of different kinds carried out on roll-on roll-off ferries. But, given the importance of the safety of these vessels, we do not consider this work provides the degree of assurance the travelling public are entitled to expect."

The committee also complained that, too often, inspections were done while a ship was in dock, where officials were less likely to discover dangerous practices.

"For many years the de-

partment's inspections have concentrated on ensuring the fabric of vessels is safe rather than testing the ship in operation," it said.

"We note, however, that operational factors and human error are a major cause of accidents and that the department's general inspections would not have identified the problem leading to the *Herald of Free Enterprise* accident. We share the department's concern that, even after that accident, they were still finding a high number of operational defects when inspecting passenger ferries."

The report also questions delays in learning other lessons of recent disasters, such as the need for a check to be kept on passenger flames and numbers. "We regard it as unsatisfactory that, although the importance of the rescue services of accurate and speedy passenger counting systems was underlined by the *Herald of Free Enterprise* accident in 1987, the department did not introduce a requirement for such procedures for smaller passenger vessels operating on the Thames and other inland waterways until after the *Marchioness* accident, some two years later," the committee said.

House of Commons committee of public accounts 6th report: ship safety (Stationery Office, £8.75)



United front: from left to right, Irene Adams, John McAllion, George Galloway, Dennis Canavan and Mike Watson, who tried to prevent the removal of the Commons mace in a protest against water privatisation

Skinner bridges troubled waters

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

DENNIS Skinner, the left-wing Labour MP so often portrayed as the villain of the piece in the Commons, turned unlikely peacemaker yesterday as he became a mediator between a group of protesting Scottish MPs and Tony Newton, leader of the House.

As MPs prepared for their three-month summer break, five members of the Scotland United group, which campaigns for Scottish devolution, staged an impromptu protest in the chamber against what they claim are plans to privatise Scotland's water industry. George Galloway, John McAllion, Irene Adams, Mike Watson and Dennis Canavan linked arms to prevent officials from removing the Commons mace. Removal of the mace, the symbol of the Speaker's authority, formally signifies the end of Commons business.

In the absence of Geoffrey Lofthouse, the deputy Speaker, Mr Skinner, MP for Bolsover, usurped the Speaker's chair to preside over a mock division of the House on the issue of Scottish water privatisation. Unsurprisingly, the remaining caucus vot-

ed unanimously against any such plan.

As the band of MPs steadfastly refused to leave the chamber, Mr Skinner engaged in some swift shuttle diplomacy to set up talks with Mr Newton. The MPs finally left the chamber after 18 minutes when Mr Skinner arranged a meeting. Mr Newton later assured the protesters that their concerns over the water industry's future would be passed to Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary.

Scottish MPs had been angered by a written answer from Mr Lang last week which said that the government had employed independent consultants to examine how the private sector might contribute enterprise and investment to the Scottish water industry.

Donald Dewar, shadow Scottish secretary, quickly distanced the Labour party from the MPs' action. "The MPs concerned acted for themselves. They consulted no one and gave no warning to colleagues," Mr Dewar said. "Instances of this kind are designed to harden attitudes, not to achieve change."

Holidays give Tories a break

By ROBIN OAKLEY

THE government's determination to minimise the impact of the John Smith succession has sent Westminster off on its holidays two weeks earlier than usual. For the Tory whips the recess has come not a moment too soon. The election euphoria has faded and it is a fractious edge to Tory party which is heading for the hills.

Some older hands note, with some justification, that ERM membership is restricting the government's ability to lower interest rates are the very same who two years ago were demanding that the government should meet the economic problems of the day by taking Britain into the ERM.

Within the government's own ranks astute critics such as Nicholas Budgen, Michael Spicer and Sir Peter Tapsell have ensured that the one thing ministers wished to prevent has come about: the Maastricht treaty and the faltering economy are no longer separate issues and there is little evidence that Tory MPs have the nerve to play the kind of long game to which John Major and Norman Lamont are committed.

Some things have gone better than expected. The government had allowed a good deal of parliamentary time for the Boundary Commissions bill, expected to ensure a bonus of at least a dozen seats for the Tories at the next election. But there has been no row. Labour's failure to make anything of it, possibly a wise move in terms of its own party psychology, has even left some senior ministers wondering if the changes are going to bring such advantages after all.

Local government elections went well. Progress has been made with open government. The cabinet, so far, is remarkably united. The Labour leadership contest has thrown up little evidence of new thinking on the left.

But it is a strangely unsettled Tory party surprised perhaps to be still in office, divided across the political generations and somehow lacking cohesion. "Support the citizen's charter" is not enough of a rallying call. The whips have taken out badly with the new generation of MPs.

If a government with a majority of only 21 is in this much bother when the Opposition has so far been almost totally diverted then life is going to get much tougher come the autumn when Labour is up and running as a hungry Opposition under a new leader.

Mr Smith will face his own problems. Labour too is split on Maastricht. Some want the party to cause the government max-

imum embarrassment by voting against ratification. Others ask how Labour could sell its election pledges in Europe down the river. "Selling" them will be a feat for the sake of cheap party political advantage.

Mr Smith still has to solve the conundrum of how Labour's commitments to help the poorer sections of society can be financed without taxation levels sufficient to alienate most of the rest. Labour's failure once again to secure an election victory in April has left the Scottish Labour party riven on devolution and a prey once more to nationalists. Mr Smith, the unions' man, also has to sort out Labour's relationship with the trade unions. Without them, they would be broke, but the relationship also costs votes.

As for Mr Ashdown, he probably faces the biggest problem of all in raising party morale. Yet again election promise failed to carry through in the polling booths. His open flirting with more co-operative opposition has alarmed some of his troops that he is planning a Lib-Lab pact. The failure to make an election breakthrough has damaged his personal standing in the Commons, as is patently obvious from his question-time interventions.

Heading off for the recess, then, they are none of them happy bunnies. But the real worry when they face their constituents may be deeper than mere party concerns. All over the world there is evidence of the alienation of politicians from their electorates. And although we under-pay our MPs and give them ludicrously poor facilities with which to do their jobs it was simply not tactful, in the week before a three-month recess, to vote in a much heftier office-costs allowance than the government was intending to provide.

They will have to live through those "snouts in the trough" accusations. But we have moved, willy nilly, much closer to the state financing of political parties. And the latest move may yet have a considerable backlash, particularly for the Tories. If constituency associations find that MPs are getting plenty of state cash to do their jobs then they will cease putting in the voluntary effort. And on the Labour side, potential party workers are going to feel even more inclined to work for single-issue pressure groups. They may yet rue that £11,000 increase.

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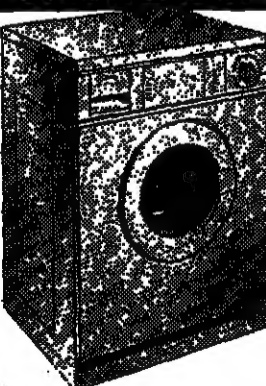
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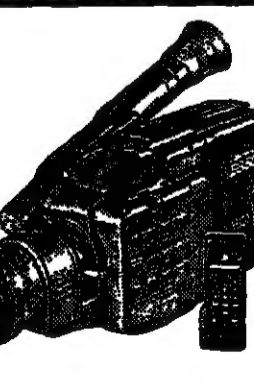


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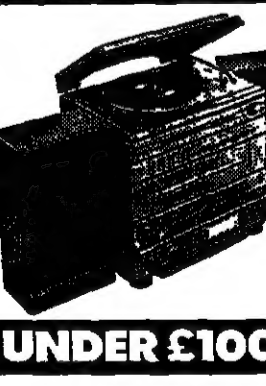


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Arkansas governor puts faith in the speech of his life to take him to the White House

Clinton aims to win over Perot voters

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN NEW YORK

BILL Clinton, crowned as the Democrats' presidential nominee amid scenes of frenzied euphoria on Wednesday evening, last night prepared to deliver the speech of his life. One his party hoped would catapult him into the White House this November and end a 12-year Republican monopoly.

The speech assumed still greater importance in the light of Ross Perot's sudden withdrawal from the race, casting adrift millions of voters, many disaffected Republicans, who are now politically homeless.

The Arkansas governor's huge task was to banish forever the image of an adulterous, draft-evading and dishonesty that have dogged him since New Hampshire's primary, and represent himself to America as a young man of integrity, vision and vigour in the Camelotian mould of John and Robert Kennedy.

A specially-commissioned 14-minute film telling the

moving story of Mr Clinton's rise from poverty and adversity in small-town Arkansas was designed to reinforce efforts to give the Democrat such a strong, positive image that he will be immune this autumn from the sort of Republican character assassination that destroyed Michael Dukakis in 1988.

The Clinton camp bet the speech would cap a triumphant Wednesday when polls showed the Democrat had surged into a record 12 point lead over President Bush, party luminaries anointed him with speeches of soaring rhetoric, and the state of Ohio finally confirmed his presidential nomination, its 144 roll-call votes giving him 99 more than the 2,145 he needed.

Shortly afterwards Mr Clinton walked dramatically on to the packed convention floor with his wife and daughter, sending Madison Square Garden into paroxysms of placard-waving ecstasy as clouds of glitter poured from the heavens and stirring music

blasted from giant speakers. Traditionally the candidate avoids the convention until his final-night acceptance speech, but Mr Clinton's appearance was yet another move to exploit the Kennedy mystique. A film celebrating Robert Kennedy's life had been screened earlier. "The rules of the convention preclude my acceptance tonight," said the 44-year-old governor, "but 32 years ago another young candidate who wanted to get this country moving again came to this convention to say a simple thank-you." The reference was to John Kennedy at the 1960 Los Angeles convention.

Earlier, an impressive display of the party's new-found unity, Mr Clinton, a southern moderate, was ringingly endorsed not only by the conservative Paul Tsongas and progressive Bob Kerrey, men he beat to the nomination, but more crucially by Edward Kennedy and Mario Cuomo, the party's most inspiring orators and champions of the Democrats' bedrock northern liberalism.

In an electric nomination speech Mr Cuomo, the New York governor who himself contemplated a presidential bid, mocked a Republican elite that seeing a callous on their palms, concluded "it's time to put down their polo mallet". He damned the economic and social consequences of Republican rule, claiming millions now heard "the sound of gunfire before they've ever heard an orchestra".

He declared that "the ship of state is headed for the rocks. The crew knows it. The passengers know it. Only the captain — President Bush — appears not to know it. He seems to think that the ship will be saved by imperceptible undercurrents, directed by the invisible hand of some cyclical economic god, that will gradually move the ship so that at the last moment it will miraculously glide to safer shores."

Mr Cuomo lauded Mr Clinton as a man of intelligence, vitality and extraordinary strength of character. "Step aside, Mr Bush," he demanded in his peroration. "It's time for a change." Democrats were thrilled by an ABC News-Washington Post poll, conducted before Mr Perot's departure, giving Mr Clinton 42 per cent, Mr Bush 30 and the Texas 20. Amongst those certain to vote Mr Clinton had a 17-point lead.

Perot pulls out, page 1

Leading article, page 15



Three's a crowd: Bill Clinton, left, enjoys silver confetti and adulation at the Democratic convention; Ross Perot announces his departure from the presidential race; and President Bush, below, fishes in Wyoming



Two-horse race forces Democratic team to rethink election strategy

Democrats are talking of a landslide victory but the real battle has not even begun, writes Peter Stothard

FASTER than the fall of confetti from the roof of Madison Square Garden, the American political scenery has shifted again. The news that Ross Perot is out of the presidential race signals an immediate battle for millions of voters who were angry enough to back an untied Texan billionaire rather than the parties in which they had spent their lives.

The view both from Bill Clinton's New York headquarters and from the Wyoming river bank, where President Bush and James Baker are on a fishing holiday, is transformed. The voters still

are angry — and for a while, they will be floating free to be caught by whichever side best matches their mood.

The news came from Dallas as Bill Clinton was putting final touches to his acceptance speech. He watched on television while Mr Perot praised the "revitalised Democratic party" which, he said, had played a major part in his decision to give up his fight.

In the balloon-filled Intercontinental Hotel, where Mr Clinton and his team had danced long after their Wednesday night nomination, aides were "back at the drawing board". They had to weigh the welcome flattery against the danger that the conservative vote in southern states, split by the attraction of Perot, would now be united behind Mr Bush again.

Mario Cuomo, the governor of New York, had already prepared delegates the previous night by dismissing Mr Perot as a passing fad whose rise proved only that Americans wanted the "change" that Democrats would eventually provide. That has been the predominant view among delegates here.

turned out to be a big difference between the two rivals. Today, after a week of carefully contrived unity, Democrats are beginning to talk about a "landslide" victory in November. But as chief strategist James Carville warns anyone who will listen, "the real battle has not even begun". Mr Bush must now know that this is his best chance to win back lost ground.

Already there are freelance advertisements that accuse Mr Clinton of causing a pregnant girlfriend to commit suicide. Mr Carville yesterday refused to accept White House denials of complicity, and predicted that there was much more "lash and burn" to come.

Before Mr Clinton's triumphant nomination, the night was one of nostalgia, dissent and doubt. Edward Kennedy won the most emotional applause for his hymn to the lost ideal of equality and his pandering prediction of a Senate in which half the members were women. Jerry Brown maintained his noisy refusal to endorse Bill Clinton and attacked "the complacent illusion" that those who talk of change will act for change.

Talking about change was Mr Clinton's whole week's work. And then there was Mario Cuomo. I watched his speech alongside the New York delegation on the convention floor. There was an audible intake of breath at his opening words: "It seems to me that this is not a matter of our wanting Bill

Clinton. "My God," said the man beside me. But Mr Cuomo went on: "We need Bill Clinton because he is our only hope for change."

"Phew," went the man. Mr Cuomo and Mr Clinton have disagreed over virtually everything. But Mr Cuomo's ambitions and ideals do now "need" a Clinton victory and he did his oratorical best to deliver a northeast liberal endorsement for the "man born poor in Hope, Arkansas".

Mr Cuomo is the only person in the Democratic party who can claim to have controlled the rhetoric of the kind that politics used to demand. He denounced Mr Bush as the captain of a ship of state that was heading for the rocks. Raising and lowering his voice, varying his gestures, he contrasted the neglect of inner cities where "we had the will but not the wallet" to the rescue of the Savings and Loans industry when "mirabile dictu, the heavens opened and, out of the blue, billions of dollars appeared".



Cuomo: falling into line with Clinton

How anger fuelled third man's campaign

Jamie Dettmer looks at the maverick who broke one political rule too many

He was greeted by Americans fed up with the two-party presidential race as a saviour who could achieve change rather than just talking about it, as a man of action who could restore America's economy and its confidence. The independent challenge for the White House mounted by Ross Perot, the maverick Texan billionaire, ignited this year's presidential contest and terrified Democrats and Republicans. Mr Perot's decision to drop out of the presidential race may have taken his die-hard supporters by surprise but over the past few weeks the Texan's campaign was in serious trouble.

When he announced on a television chat show in February that he would run if his supporters could place his name on the ballots in all 50 states, few political experts believed that the diminutive computer businessman was serious. Even his wife, watching the programme in a hotel room, was astonished. "I can't believe you did that," she said. But the widespread voter anger that fuelled the insurgency campaigns of Patrick Buchanan, President Bush's Republican challenger, and Jerry Brown, the former California governor, propelled Mr Perot's run on the White House and pushed the Texan up the opinion polls at an alarming rate.

He was, with his Marine-style short hairstyle and east Texas twang, an entirely unlikely presidential candidate. His autocratic way of running his companies and his improbable adventures in Iran and Vietnam certainly made him stand out from the more conventional figures of President Bush and Bill Clinton, the Democratic frontrunner. But then, this year's White House contest has been anything but conventional.

When the Texas billionaire looks back and wonders what went wrong with his independent challenge for the White House, the name of Ed Rollins, the veteran political strategist who quit the Perot camp on Wednesday, will hammer away in his brain. Mr Rollins' resignation over "irreconcilable differences" with the autocratic Mr Perot was one of those all-important moments in a political contest when victory and defeat is decided.

The old rules of American electoral politics were knocked for six when Mr Perot rose suddenly in the opinion polls and overtook President Bush in the popularity ratings. But some of the old rules still applied and by failing to observe them Mr Perot undermined his own campaign.

At the weekend, there were intense discussions between the professionals and Mr Perot's business associates. Mr Rollins, who had had little direct access even to the billionaire, presented three options: hand over the running of the campaign to himself, continue on the current course and see the campaign collapse or leave the presidential race. Within Mr Perot accepted that his campaign could not win. At a press conference at his Dallas headquarters yesterday, Mr Perot said he was withdrawing because he did not want to disrupt the American political system.

Ottawa deal in danger

THE constitutional deal between the federal government and nine Canadian provinces is fraying at the edges and may be in danger of falling apart (John Best writes from Ottawa).

Opposition is mounting to the settlement in the French-speaking province of Quebec, which was not represented at the meeting in Ottawa where the deal was hammered out. A five-hour meeting of the federal cabinet on Wednesday apparently failed to resolve serious divisions among ministers over the proposed plan. Even Brian Mulroney, the prime minister, and Joe Clark, his minister for constitutional affairs, had their differences. Mr Clark said both before and after Wednesday's meeting that the fundamental elements of last week's agreement, including a controversial proposal to overhaul the Senate, the upper house of Canada's parliament, will not be changed.

Mr Mulroney, however, emphasised that the accord, which he said had been worked out "informally" by Mr Clark and premiers of the nine English-speaking provinces, was not "the definitive word".

Quebec is to hold a referendum on sovereignty on October 26 but this could become a vote on renewed federalism.

Visits legalised

Taipei: Taiwan removed the last barrier to exchange with the communist government on the mainland when parliament approved the Statute for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait to legalise visits to China by Taiwanese politicians and businessmen.

Japan hesitates

Tokyo: Kichi Miyazawa, Japan's prime minister, has changed his mind on the deployment of troops overseas and said that his soldiers will not be allowed to join United Nations peacekeeping operations in Cambodia until the Khmer Rouge is disarmed.

China defied

Hong Kong: Legislators of Hong Kong set the scene for another political battle with China by voting, by an unexpectedly large majority of 28 to 23, for a simple British-style system of first past the post voting for the 1995 general election in the colony.

Li rebuffed

Peking: At the suggestion of Deng Xiaoping, the senior leader, Peking is to revise its five-year plan to boost economic growth. The move is seen as a rebuff to Li Peng, the prime minister, who has lobbied for a cautious growth rate of 6 per cent.

Birth control

Manila: President Ramos of the Philippines announced a policy to check fast population growth and appeared on course for conflict with the influential Roman Catholic Church. Mr Ramos is the first Protestant president of Asia's only Catholic country.

Sharma wins

Delhi: Shankar Dayal Sharma, 71, the Congress nominee, won a decisive victory over his rival, George Y. B. Swell, in the presidential election. Dr Sharma, a former Cambridge don, takes over as India's ninth president at the end of the month.

Case closed

Cincinnati: Prosecutors in the case of John Demjanjuk, who was sentenced to death in Israel, for being the Nazi death camp guard "Ivan the Terrible", said that there was no evidence to justify reopening the case for his extradition from America to Israel.

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BOOKINGS MUST BE MADE BY 20TH JULY 1992

Rodney King jailed for drink-driving after crash

Rodney King was jailed and charged for driving under the influence of alcohol yesterday after crashing into a concrete post shortly after 2am in the car park of a Californian restaurant. After refusing to give samples, he was taken to a police station and later released. Mr King, whose not guilty police beating trial verdict in April led to the Los Angeles riots, was arrested in June after allegedly hitting his wife but no charges were laid. His attorney, Steve Lerman, who is preparing a civil case against the city of Los Angeles over the beating, said that his client was suffering from severe post-traumatic stress following the media attention

after the trial. "Mr King has been under a great deal of pressure and is suffering from a serious medical condition. We'll all be very glad when it's over," he said.

Unpublished letters from Ernest Hemingway show he feared losing manuscripts, used newspaper stories as background for his novels, was jealous of his wife and thought *For Whom The Bell Tolls* his best work. The six letters, bought by a rare-book collector, won the Hemingwayway Contest, which is a national search for Hemingway memorabilia and is part of the week-long Key West Hemingway Days festival.

Woody Guthrie, the wandering minstrel of the Great Depression and Dust Bowl, no longer is being shunned at home. It took 24 years and the fall of communism, but his memory is welcome in Oklahoma. Guthrie, whose folk songs include *This Land is Your Land* had been condemned in this aging oil-boom town, even after his death in 1967. Now Oklahoma has extended its apologies with a folk-art festival in the singer's name.

King Hussein of Jordan has left for Damascus for talks with President Assad, the Syrian leader, on the latest developments in the Middle

East peace process, officials said. It is his first visit to Damascus since last August.

The quirky drama series from CBS, *Northern Exposure*, gained 16 nominations in Los Angeles yesterday to lead all competitors in the 44th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards. NBC was the top network overall with 100 nominations. CBS was second with 70, followed by ABC with 63. The winners will be announced next month. Nominations for *Northern Exposure* included lead actor for Rob Morrow and supporting actor for John Corbett. The series was also nominated for outstanding drama, along with *LA Law*

and *Murphy Brown*. Best comedy series nominations included NBC's *Cheers*. Recommendations for best actress in a drama series went to Kate Nelligan of the Disney Channel's *Avonlea*, Angela Lansbury of *Murder, She Wrote*, and Sharon Gless of *The Trials of Rosie O'Neill*. In the comedy actor category was Ted Danson of *Cheers*, last year's winner Bart Reynolds of *Evening Shade*, and John Goodman of *Roseanne*. The *Tonight Show* starring Johnny Carson was nominated for outstanding variety, music or comedy programme in a sentimental tribute. Carson retired in May after 30 years in show business.

الصحف

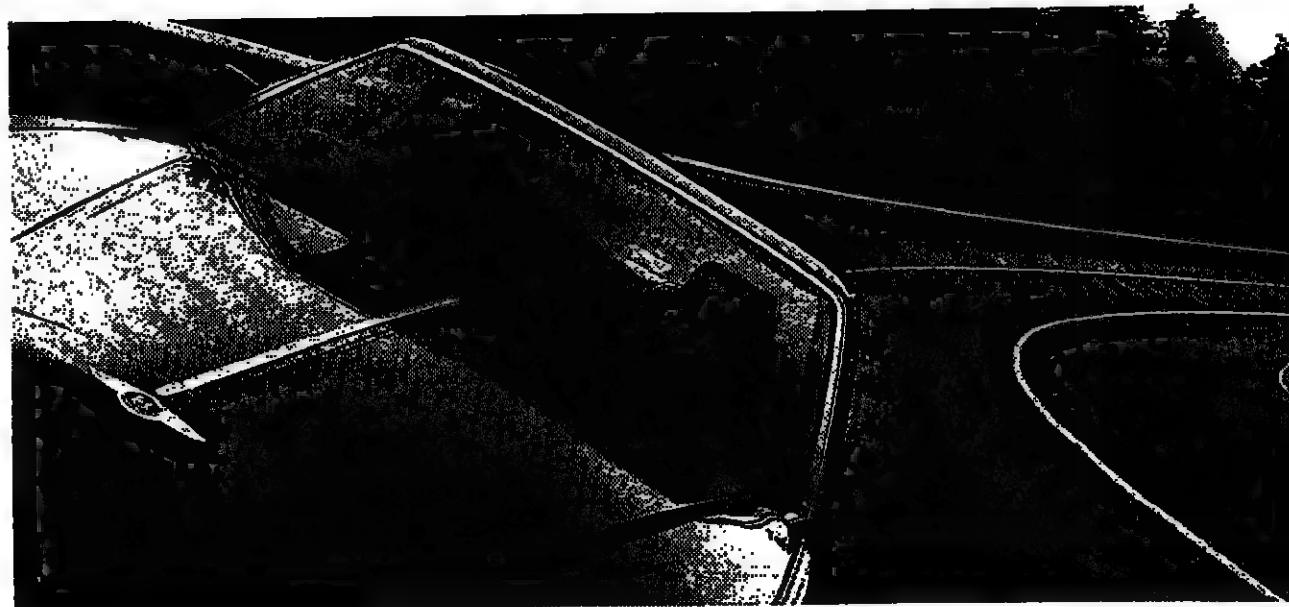


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Island's radical reforms wither under Lenin's hard gaze

MOST Russians know at least three things about Sakhalin: it is an island; Chekhov spent time here recording conditions in the tsar's prison camps; and it has a go-ahead administrator, Valentin Fyodorov, who wants to make Sakhalin a model for Russian economic reform. What they may not know is that Sakhalin is cold, damp and foggy, and this is a reality that cramps even Mr Fyodorov's expansive style.

Sakhalin is among the many regions of the former Soviet Union which lament that their natural resources should have made them as rich as Kuwait — and then sit back to curse a malevolent fate. Mr Fyodorov says he is trying to prove that Russians can run a normal economy as well as anyone else. Two years and three months into his tenure, however, Sakhalin appears not significantly better developed than other areas of the Russian periphery.

In Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, the regional capital of Sakhalin, the backdrop, when the fog lifts, is of miniature green hills, fading into a blue haze, with blue-green trees that could take their place on a Japanese painting. Into the oriental charm, however, intrude all the usual Soviet eyesores. Only a single Japanese building, now the local museum, survives from 50 years of Japanese rule before 1945. The outskirts are studded with barracks-like buildings interspersed with tumbledown wooden houses and huts.

Mr Fyodorov treats conversations as a performance. He likes to be noticed, and he basks in the attention created by his move from a Moscow professorship to the governorship of Sakhalin. He said he believed the island's reforms

— his reforms — are on course. Sakhalin's economic development, however, is not helped by a prevailing philosophical confusion, some of it of Mr Fyodorov's making. He is reputed to be a radical. Yet all the symbols of communism are in place. Lenin is in his square, the old names are in tact. Only Communist Street has provoked adverse comment, yet a proposal that it be renamed Vladimirovka Street, after the original name of the city, was rejected.

Mr Fyodorov himself is starting to sound positively conservative. "You have to be very cautious in dismantling the old system," he said. "The transition will take at least ten years." He called the "500-day" programme, advocated by radical economists in the Gorbachev years, "pure adventurism", but said that the current plans of the Russian government were ten times more irresponsible. "The economy is like a bottle of champagne. If you open it too fast, everything will spill out. You need to do it slowly."

Like many Russian economists, Mr Fyodorov advocated privatisation before freeing prices, and he stands by that. "Without private business, foreign capital will just flow back to the state and reinforce a system that needs to be destroyed. State bureaucrats will sign anything for a price."

The rich island of Sakhalin, with huge investment potential, is languishing in the grip of Moscow, Mary Dejevsky writes from Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk

He also emphasised the need for Sakhalin to "grow its own" entrepreneurs and not rely on outside help.

Yet Sakhalin probably has more investment potential than almost anywhere in Russia. American, Japanese and South Korean firms are engaged in a cut-throat competition to prospect for oil on the island's northwestern shelf. Caviar, crab and salmon are caught in abundance and sold abroad. Hard currency should be no problem — except that the "centre", in Mr Fyodorov's experience, still takes the profits.



He cited a recent deal whereby prospecting rights to part of the shelf went to an American-Japanese consortium for \$15 million (£7.8 million) — almost half of which was supposed to go to Sakhalin. Alas, the money was paid into a single bank account and Moscow spent it. "There is nothing left," said Mr Fyodorov. "I am raising hell about that at the moment."

The governor conceded that the regions, including Sakhalin, have more freedom than in the past. But, he said, Moscow was repeating many of the old Soviet centre's mistakes, trying to govern through central ministries. Conflicts between the regions and the centre clearly continued, but the governor's combative style and contempt for the Russian government may also make life more difficult for him and for Sakhalin than it needs to be. Where is all this economic freedom, you ask continually, that Mr Fyodorov and his men set out to snatch? They have a rich island as their test ground, why has so little been achieved?

The old peasants' market is a shadow of a market. The empty stone counters outnumber those with anything on sale. Privatisation, as Sakhalin's democratic politicians complain loudly, has hardly begun. It is an open secret that, despite a much-vaunted "business centre" in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, many joint ventures with foreign companies have served only to get luxury fish cheaply on to foreign markets and allow individual Russians to make illicit fortunes. Private farms are struggling to survive: there is no infrastructure for them.

The cash shortage is so severe that a reluctant population has almost trained itself to use cheques. Some factory workers have threatened violence if their wages are not paid.

Mr Fyodorov's experiment has run into the very same difficulties that are faced by economic reforms everywhere else in the former Soviet Union. But with his insistence that Sakhalin can trade on its uniqueness and that he will show the way, the governor has made enemies not just in Moscow but far closer at hand. "The transformation predicted by Fyodorov has not happened," wrote one local newspaper bitterly, and the word is out that the governor, for all his undoubted expertise, is a showman and not much more.

Factions fail to meet in London

Yugoslav talks slide towards collapse

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE

LORD Carrington's latest attempt to bring peace to Bosnia seemed doomed to collapse last night, after a second day of London peace talks when the leaders of the warring factions failed even to speak to one another.

Although Radovan Karadzic, Bosnia's Serbian warlord, announced he had ordered his commanders to halt the siege of the town of Gorazde, it was not enough to persuade Haris Silajdzic, the republic's Muslim foreign minister, and Mate Boban, the Croat leader, to hold face-to-face talks.

The one glimmer of hope — when the Croat leader later

said he was prepared to meet Mr Silajdzic and Dr Karadzic — was soon tempered, however, when he added that Dr Karadzic was "not well-intentioned in the context of the principles of the European Community".

The London talks began on Wednesday when the faction leaders met Lord Carrington separately. It was unclear last night whether the faltering process would limp into a third day.

Dr Karadzic's declaration of an end to the siege of Gorazde was greeted with scepticism by Mr Silajdzic. The Serb leader's offer on Wednesday of a unilateral ceasefire was fol-

lowed by a burst of fighting across Bosnia.

"The Serbs want to legitimise the fighting," said Mr Silajdzic. "They offer ceasefires and come to talks and the killing goes on because they want an ethnically cleansed greater Serbia."

Mr Silajdzic said he was sending Lord Carrington a letter accusing the Serb and Croat leaders of meeting in the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, earlier this month to carve up Bosnia. "It was agreed that the Serbs will recognise the Croatian region of Herceg-Bosnia as the state of the Bosnian and Herzegovinian Croats in a confederative arrangement with a possible link to Belgrade and Zagreb respectively," the letter said. Mr Boban and Dr Karadzic separately denounced the claim as "a lie".

On Wednesday, Mr Silajdzic proposed a Muslim peace plan offering equal shares of cabinet posts to the other two communities, but his concept of a unitary state is unacceptable to the Serbs.

Dr Karadzic said of Mr Silajdzic's repeated outbursts in the past two days: "As a psychiatrist, I would say Mr Silajdzic is too emotional. It is not going to help to blame one another. It shows the Muslim side is not in favour of talks. I was very optimistic after I saw Lord Carrington, but after I saw Silajdzic I was pessimistic." In an open letter to the Muslim delegation, he called for face-to-face discussions.

Meanwhile, Mr Boban, the Croat leader, sat in his hotel room and accused Dr Karadzic and Alija Izetbegovic, the Bosnian president, of "politicising and causing all our problems". He went on to say: "I believe a tripartite meeting would be unproductive at this stage. When the EC believes the time is right for that, the time will come."

War crimes claims: Senior British government sources said last night there was sufficient prima facie evidence to warrant an investigation into war crimes by Serbian forces. Sodako Ogata, of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, told John Major yesterday there had been breaches of human rights amounting to breaches of the Geneva convention and cited abuses committed against Muslims in Sarajevo by Serbian forces.

Leading article, page 15



One-man band: an elderly citizen singing anti-war songs in a central square in Zagreb, the Croatian capital, to protest against the fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Tens of thousands of refugees from the republic have fled to Croatia to escape the war

Hurd turns down safe haven plea

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN ZAGREB

SLOVENIA yesterday called for the setting-up of safe havens in Bosnia, where refugees from the fighting would be protected by international forces. The proposal was made by President Kucan, after talks in Ljubljana with Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary.

Slovenia has been overwhelmed by 70,000 refugees, mostly Muslims, fleeing from Bosnia, and with the closing of frontiers by Italy, Hungary, and Austria, the numbers will rapidly increase. However, Mr Hurd poured cold water on the idea, saying that any such proposal would have to be examined very carefully. "It's not something you can do without very careful study of the obstacles and dangers — not least the dangers to those you are trying to protect."

He said establishing safe havens would be a matter for the United Nations, and the UN forces in former Yugoslavia, which he thought were not yet equipped for such a task. But he said Britain and the EC were ready to look at any ideas that helped bring safety to those in danger.

Mr Hurd spoke as fighting continued in Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, where a mortar shell slammed into a busy market and killed two people. The city shook throughout the night under the heaviest artillery barrage for a week. The Serbian news agency in Bosnia said Serb forces had routed ethnic Croats at Novi Grad and Dubica in northern



Bosnia during the night, inflicting heavy casualties. Serbs had reached the banks of the river Sava which forms the Bosnian border with Croatia.

Nato said in Brussels that an international force of naval vessels and aircraft began patrolling Yugoslavia's Adriatic coast yesterday to enforce a trade embargo.

The safe haven proposal was made during Mr Hurd's brief stopover in Ljubljana at the start of his four-day visit to the republics of former Yugoslavia, and Albania. Slovene leaders strongly urged him to back a tightening of sanctions against Serbia, but in contrast to the Bosnian leaders, whom he will see today, did not call for Western military intervention. Instead they urged the West to step up its efforts to isolate Serbia politically and economically.

● Belgrade: Milan Panic, the Yugoslav prime minister, said yesterday, perhaps by the end of the week, to open talks aimed at ending the ethnic conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina. (AFP)

Clamp on missiles agreed

By MICHAEL EVANS

INTELLIGENCE services from the East and West have agreed to unprecedented cooperation to try to stop the proliferation of ballistic missiles and components for weapons of mass destruction.

Foreign Office and defence ministry officials said in London yesterday.

The most difficult area for intelligence and customs officials was to identify the dual-use components being exported from different countries which could end up as parts of a ballistic missile or as items for the construction of nuclear, chemical or biological weapon systems.

Officials said meetings had been held this week between the Americans and their Nato partners on global protection against limited strikes.

Venice judiciary investigates De Michelis for corruption

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

MAGISTRATES have begun moves to lift the parliamentary immunity of Gianni De Michelis, the former Italian foreign minister, judicial sources said yesterday.

Signor De Michelis, a flamboyant figure who was foreign minister for three years until last month, was told this week that he was under investigation for alleged corruption by magistrates in his Venice fiefdom.

Magistrates have also asked for immunity to be lifted on Carlo Bernini, the former transport minister, and two other parliamentarians in an investigation into the awarding of public contracts. The request, which is standard procedure, was sent to the local attorney's office in Venice and will be passed on to parliament in Rome.

Signor De Michelis' ambi-

tion to become deputy leader of his Socialist party may be thwarted now, political commentators said yesterday. He has denied any connection with the bribery allegations made against Socialist and Christian Democrat politicians in his native Venice, where he is nicknamed "the Doge" because of his reputed control of the local party.

The long-haired former representative of Italy abroad, who made diplomatic history by becoming the first European foreign minister to write a guide to disco dancing, has accused Venice magistrates of acting according to "a theorem" under which he must have known about the activities of his followers allegedly taking bribes in return for giving out lucrative public works contracts. He insisted that these "were completely

unknown to me", and vowed "to put myself at the total disposition of the judiciary to prove it".

Commentators said yesterday that the affair may have cost the normally exuberant politician the job of deputy party secretary, previously held by Giuliano Amato, the new prime minister.

Signor De Michelis met Bettino Craxi, the party secretary, on Wednesday at party headquarters in the Via del Corso. Signor Craxi previously was reported to have all but promised Signor De Michelis he would become the party number two. But *La Stampa* newspaper said Signor De Michelis would name him deputy secretary or if instead he will be sacrificed to keep public opinion happy.

Pope takes short walk in hospital

Rome: The Pope walked around his room at the Gemelli hospital yesterday after recovering from the removal of a benign intestinal tumour (John Phillips writes). A medical bulletin said the pontiff, 72, required a sedative to ease moderate pain that was normal after the operation he underwent on Wednesday. "He had a tranquil night and is resting," a Vatican spokesman said. The Pope took his first steps since the surgery.

'No' to Sladek

Prague: The Czechoslovak parliament overwhelmingly rejected the candidature of Miroslav Sladek, the far-right Republican party head, for the federal presidency. Mr Sladek was sole candidate. (Reuters)

Mayor guilty

Brussels: Edouard Close, a former Belgian interior minister and mayor of Liege, was given a 28-month suspended sentence after a trial linking the city's Socialist with widespread corruption and the murder of a former minister.

Envoy attacked

Potsdam: Protesters here threw eggs at the car carrying Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister. No one was hurt. The German foreign ministry said he would fly home from his visit earlier than scheduled "because of security reasons". (AP)

Charges filed

Paris: Henri Emmanuelli, the speaker of the French parliament, will face charges over the illegal financing of the Socialist party, which he served as treasurer in the late 1980s. President Mitterrand defended M. Emmanuelli as a man of great integrity.

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France shies away from admitting Vichy guilt

Charles Bremner examines reactions to the fiftieth anniversary of the French police round-up of Jews

illustrations of France's continuing inability to come to terms with its wartime past. Mitterrand was both as saluted and congratulated for rejecting the call of intellectuals and Jewish leaders, many of his friends, to acknowledge for posterity France's role in the Holocaust.

On Bastille day, M Mitterrand said the crimes of Vichy France had nothing to do with the French republic, re-established by General de Gaulle. *Le Monde*, like most newspapers, yesterday regretted M Mitterrand's words. "It would not injure

the memory of those who resisted [the Nazis] or of the Republic to admit that France, at least in its official form at the time, had been an agent of barbarism," it said.

The left-wing *Libération*, usually a supporter of the president, wondered how anyone would dare honour the victims of the Vichy state while refusing to identify their executioners. "We have to believe that a half-century has not been enough for official France to look its history in the face," it said.

Taking the contrary view, Claude Lanzmann, the direc-

tor of *Shoah*, the epic film about the extermination of the Jews, said Mitterrand was right not to take a step which would dishonour the tens of thousands of French who died resisting the German occupation. "If the French handed over Jews, others, far more than we hear nowadays, saved them."

A historical research and a deluge of media coverage this week, few in France are unaware that the Vél d'Hiv raids were organised and conducted by French officials, a fact which was swept under the rug in the late 1940s when de Gaulle sought to re-unite the country.

The police struck at dawn, hammering down the doors of Jewish families. They were given five minutes to pack

before being herded into buses and taken to the Vél d'Hiv where they were kept for five days in summer heat with no lavatories, food or water. Pierre Laval, the Vichy prime minister, had ordered the arrest of all children, despite German instructions.

Raymonde Krynch, one of the children who managed later to escape, explained yesterday how her mother had hidden, but had burst out in tears and was discovered when the police found her daughter. The family had been denounced by the neighbours. Ginette Rozenblum was aged ten when her family were awakened by a knock on the door. "Two policemen came to our door and said: 'Prepare your suitcases.' They were French," said Mme Rozenblum.

Egypt ready for summit with Israel

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

STRONG hints emerged yesterday of a long-awaited warming in the strained relations between Egypt and Israel which have resulted in little of the hoped-for normalisation of ties since the Camp David treaty of 1979.

Israel's freeze yesterday on its controversial settlement programme on occupied Arab land was swiftly followed by an announcement from Egypt that it would create the right atmosphere for a summit between President Mubarak and Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister. It will be the first between leaders of the two former enemies at such a level since 1986.

Muhammad Abdel-Moneim, the Egyptian presidential spokesman, said: "Hours ago, Rabin's government announced suspension of new building contracts in the West Bank and Gaza and this is an earnest step that helps

create a suitable climate for an important meeting between President Mubarak and Prime Minister Rabin."

He refused to comment on reports in Cairo's opposition press that Egypt and Israel have begun contacts to arrange a time and venue for a summit. Israeli sources said they expected a meeting to take place before Mr Rabin's scheduled visit to America early next month.

The policy of expanding Jewish settlements and personal antipathy prevented Mr Mubarak from meeting Yitzhak Rabin, the hardline Likud former prime minister defeated in last month's Israeli elections. In 1986 Mr Mubarak had met in Egypt with Shimon Peres, then the Labour prime minister, and now the foreign minister.

In a veiled attack on Mr Shimon Peres, Mr Abdel-Moneim said: "President Mubarak repeatedly stated that he would be prepared to meet Israel's prime minister if such a meeting promised positive results, meeting the aspirations of the people of the region. But Israel's former prime minister did not respond to this approach, and consequently no summit materialised."

Apart from moving forward the wider Middle East peace process, Arab diplomats said yesterday that an Egypt-Israel summit would be aimed at opening up contacts. These have reached a low after the hostility engendered by the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

A senior European envoy said: "Both leaders are former military commanders. Rabin of the army and Mubarak of the air force, and both are pragmatists rather than ideologues. There is real hope that they could break the ice around the Camp David treaty."

More than one million Israelis have visited Egypt since 1979, but apart from diplomats and journalists, few Egyptians have made the reverse journey. Mutual suspicion and dislike remain high with Egypt's growing body of Islamic extremists opposed to the treaty that for many years made Egypt an outcast in the Arab world.

Egypt's semi-official press reported yesterday that James Baker, the American Secretary of State, would be carrying a six-point plan when he resumes his shuttle diplomacy next week. In addition to a freeze on new Israeli settlements and a reciprocal end to the Arab boycott of Israel, the press report said it would also include other confidence-building steps designed to help direct peace negotiations, which are now expected to resume in Rome in September.

As part of intensive discussions in advance of Mr Baker's trip to Israel and its Arab neighbours, King Hussein of Jordan flew yesterday to Damascus for consultations with President Assad of Syria in an effort to bridge differences and form a joint Arab stand.

Settlements freeze, page 1

Botha denies fomenting township violence

BY JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK AND
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

WITH the United Nations set to send a special envoy to South Africa, the country's white minority government yesterday denied that it was responsible for the upsurge of black township violence.

Addressing an extraordinary debate of the UN Security Council on last month's massacre of at least 42 people in the Boipatong squatter camp, R. F. "Pik" Botha, the South African foreign minister, said: "To accuse the government of fomenting violence is an insult."

He flatly rejected the charge made before the security council on Wednesday by Nelson Mandela, the leader of the African National Congress, that Pretoria was pursuing a "cold-blooded strategy of state terrorism."

"It hurts me to be accused of fomenting violence between ethnic groups when we have at last removed ourselves from apartheid," Mr Botha said. He blamed most of the violence on an ethnic and political conflict between Mr Mandela's supporters and those of Chief Mangosuthu Buthe, the former Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party.

Listing the steps his government has taken to dismantle apartheid, he called on the ANC to end its boycott of the talks on a new democratic constitution which it announced in the wake of the Boipatong massacre. "Negotiation is not the best alternative," he said. "It is the only alternative."



High flier: R. F. "Pik" Botha, the South African foreign minister, playing with a paper airplane while Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress, addresses the UN Security Council in New York

afterwards that he would welcome the mission. The UN envoy will advise the security council on measures that could be taken to promote a reduction in violence in South Africa and a resumption of the talks on democracy.

African nations see the UN envoy's trip as the thin end of the wedge of UN involvement in South Africa, and hope they will be able to persuade the security council to send United Nations observers to monitor human rights.

But Mr Botha indicated that he did not believe the United Nations envoy's trip would lead to a permanent UN monitoring presence in South Africa. "It's not my impression that the United Nations would like to establish themselves in the townships and get their guys shot at," he said.

United Nations envoy's trip would lead to a permanent UN monitoring presence in South Africa. "It's not my impression that the United Nations would like to establish themselves in the townships and get their guys shot at," he said.

Jail terms greeted by gunfire

FROM ALFRED HERMIDA
IN ALGIERS

GUNFIRE broke out in Algiers in the early hours of yesterday morning as police fired warning shots to disperse demonstrators protesting against the jailing of the leaders of the main Muslim fundamentalist party, the Islamic Salvation Front.

Automatic gunfire and sporadic shooting were heard for more than an hour in several districts of the capital. The disturbances followed the trial verdict on Wednesday, when the military court sentenced the two principal party leaders, Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, to 12 years' imprisonment, while another five received terms ranging from four to six years.

The charges were brought after clashes between fundamentalists and police in June last year left almost 100 people dead. Although the defendants were found guilty of conspiring against the authority of the state, they were cleared of the more serious accusation of plotting an armed insurrection, which carries the death penalty.

The military-backed authorities clearly did not want to aggravate the climate of instability that has prevailed in Algeria since the cancellation of general elections this year which the Islamic front was set to win.



Syrians to stay on in Beirut

FROM ALI JABER
IN BEIRUT

SYRIA said yesterday that it would not withdraw its forces from Beirut by September, defying the provisions of the peace accord which ended the civil war in Lebanon in 1990.

The announcement by Abdel-Halim Khaddam, the Syrian vice-president and the architect of Damascus's policy in Lebanon, came in an interview with Beirut's French-language newspaper, *L'Orient-Le Jour*. His remarks immediately fuelled heated debates, pitting Lebanon's Christians against pro-Syrian Muslims on the wisdom of holding the country's first parliamentary elections in 20 years before Syria's 35,000 troops leave Beirut for eastern Bekaa in September. "If they want to wait for our departure to hold the polls, then I tell them we are staying until September and after that date as well," Mr Khaddam declared.

The Lebanese parliament was expected yesterday to approve an election bill which could pave the way for polls to be held between August 16 and September 26. But most Christian leaders have rejected staging elections before the Syrians leave and have threatened a civil unrest campaign if the bill were passed.

Blood ritual holds threat of Aids

Doctors in Nabatiyeh, Lebanon, fear that a ceremony involving bloodshed could spread HIV, Ali Jaber writes

SHAIKHS leading Friday prayers have, since the resurgence of Muslim fundamentalism a decade ago, ridiculed Aids as a curse inflicted upon "the more permissive satanic societies in the West by God".

But now the danger of infection with HIV, which can lead to Aids, is so great that rescue workers wear clinical gloves and masks, and doctors hold Aids-awareness seminars. Fear of an epidemic haunts Nabatiyeh on the first ten days of each Muslim year. On the tenth day — which, 1,312 years ago, fell on a Friday — Hussein Ibn Ali, the Muslim Shias' most popular imam, was killed in the Iraqi city of Karbala. Since then, Shias have observed the *ashura*, a ten-day period of mourning for the loss of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson.

In Nabatiyeh, thousands of children and adults, old and young, dress in white robes and indulge in a spectacular ceremony of blood during which they slash their heads and pound on the wounds until the white drapes turn red. As they do so, they roam the streets lamenting the death of Hussein and some 40 members of his family in the battle in 630 over who ruled the Islamic empire.

The head slashers share razor blades or swords to cut their heads and those of their companions. They pound on their wounds, splashing their blood over spectators as well

as fellow mourners. "The danger of Aids lies here," said Ahmed Webbe, a United Nations doctor specialising in infectious diseases. "Blood-letting in *ashura* should stop now. If one of these mourners happens to be a carrier of HIV, he can spread it to 200 others."

So far, six cases of Aids have been discovered in Nabatiyeh. All those affected frequently travel to Africa on business. Almost half the 30,000 population regularly work in Africa. They usually travel alone, leave the frustrations of their own culture behind, and lead an active sexual life there. A high proportion of prostitutes in the countries that they visit are HIV-positive.

Geneva: Projects undertaken by certain African countries, with the assistance of the World Health Organisation, to combat the spread of HIV have achieved significant changes in sexual behaviour (Alan McGregor writes).

Data to be presented before a conference on Aids in Amsterdam show measurable reductions in HIV infection and sexually transmitted diseases, especially in Zaire. After free condoms began to be issued to female prostitutes in Kinshasa, condom use increased from under 10 per cent to 60 per cent in two years. The annual incidence of new cases of HIV infection fell from 18 per cent to 3 per cent over the same period.

Rivals 'murder boy camel jockey'

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

EVEN the pen of Dick Francis would have been hard pushed to match the real scandal that yesterday shocked followers of the Middle East's fastest growing and richest sport, camel racing.

According to semi-official newspapers in the United Arab Emirates, headquarters of the 20th-century revival of an old Bedouin pastime, four child camel jockeys beat to death a Bangladeshi rival, seven, because they considered him a threat to their livelihoods. Child jockeys, sometimes as young as four and five from the Indian sub-continent, are favoured by the wealthy shaikhs who dominate the camel-owning fraternity because of their weight and size.

They are often attached to a pad on the camel's back by Velcro sewn into their trousers and given instructions in primitive Urdu over radio receivers attached to their chests from owners and trainers roaring along in their four-wheel-drive vehicles.

The recruitment of the youngsters, mainly from Pakistan and Bangladesh, has been the subject of repeated allegations that it is a modern type of slave



Desert derby: racing camels, being ridden by children, heading for a photo finish in Dubai

trade. The accusations are rejected by the Arab owners, who claim that there is stiff competition for the relatively high wages that can be earned by a successful camel jockey.

Emirates News reported that the murder at a camel farm in Al-Dhaid in Sharjah emirate took place on Wednesday when the jockeys, aged between seven and ten, tied the victim's hands and beat him with a stick and whip. During the beating he died of cardiac arrest.

The killing, which has highlighted the immaturity of the jockeys who race with sticks often as big as themselves and present a curious sight bobbing up and down on the back of the

beasts, took place in the off season. The main camel races take place in the cooler months from September to May. Police said that the four jockeys, all employees of the farm, were the youngest suspects ever arrested for murder in the emirates. They could be sentenced to a maximum of ten years in a detention centre if found guilty.

In the past 18 years, camel racing has been revived and has become big business, with top animals changing hands for £250,000 or more. "The situation has become very competitive," said an Australian vet employed by one of the owners in the Gulf. "It has completely changed. Certainly now the

sophistication in breeding and training is very high."

The animals are now blood-tested and stress-tested in an effort to improve performance. There is also intense rivalry over feeds, with one leading shaikh reported to have achieved success from feeding his string of racers a mix of honey, milk, butter, oats, barley and alfalfa.

In 80 per cent of the cases, the competing animals are female because it is claimed by local experts that the female of the species has more endurance. Many Arabs involved in the sport note with pride that the virtue of she-camels is extolled in the Koran.

Cash prizes of tens of thousands of dollars are offered for the big races. Although Islam prevents legalised gambling on the tracks, it is known that trainers, owners and their "connections" have considerable wagers on the side.

The recruitment of young Asian jockeys like those allegedly involved in the Sharjah killing has become an industry in itself. The jockeys sometimes weigh as little as 35 lb, and are usually employed for three or four years until they outgrow their jobs and hand over their camel-racing silks to a younger generation.

New Investment Rates from the Bristol & West

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ACCOUNT	AMOUNT INVESTED	GROSS RATE OF INTEREST (ESTIMATED)	GROSS C.A.R.*	NET Y.R.A.	NET C.A.R.**
High 30	£100,000+	10.00%		7.38%	
	£50,000+	9.50%		7.00%	
	£25,000+	9.00%		6.62%	
	£10,000+	8.50%		6.25%	
	£5,000+	8.00%		5.88%	
High 30 Monthly Income	£100,000+	9.75%	10.00%	7.10%	7.30%
	£50,000+	9.50%	9.50%	6.82%	7.00%
	£25,000+	9.25%	9.00%	6.54%	6.70%
	£10,000+	9.00%	8.50%	6.26%	6.40%
	£5,000+	8.75%	8.00%	5.98%	6.10%
Select (M.L.R. Fund)	£100,000+	9.00%		6.38%	
Rate Bond & Secure	£100,000+	8.50%		6.00%	
Investment Bond Part	£10,000+	8.00%		5.62%	
Income, Variable Rate Bond	£5,000+	7.50%		5.25%	
Special Election Bond	£500+	7.00%		4.88%	
Small Income Account	£1+	1.00%		1.00%	
Special Monthly Income	£50,000+	8.50%	9.00%	6.00%	6.20%
	£25,000+	8.00%	8.50%	5.62%	5.82%
	£10,000+	7.50%	8.00%	5.25%	5.45%
	£5,000+	7.00%	7.50%	4.88%	5.08%
	£1+	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
Bonus Interest	£25,000+	10.00%		7.38%	
Bond 2 and Return	£10,000+	10.00%		7.38%	
Bond 2 Plus Bonus	£5,000+	10.00%		7.38%	
Bonus Return	£1+	1.00%		1.00%	
Bond 1 Income Account	£10,000+	10.00%		7.38%	
TESSA Plus	£250-£2,000+	8.50%		5.88%	
	£1-£250	5.00%		2.50%	
Bonus TESSA	£10,000+	10.00%		7.38%	
	£5,000-£10,000+	9.50%		7.00%	
	£1-£5,000	4.75%		2.38%	
No. 1 Client (Closed Issue)	£50,000+	7.50%		5.38%	
Trust Bond, First Class, Inc.	£25,000+	6.00%		4.38%	
Year Premium, Interest Assured	£5,000+	5.50%		4.00%	
Marriage Bond and No. 1 Bonus	£500+	5.00%		3.62%	
Income (Closed Issue)	£1+	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
Also Money Unit, Deposits, Special Savings, Charitable Investment Scheme, Personal Deposits, Club Deposits, Discretionary Trusts, Life Insurance, etc.					
Life Insurance (Day)	£1+	5.00%		5.00%	
Life Insurance (Night)	£1+	5.00%		5.00%	
Special Deposits	£1+	1.00%		1.00%	
High 30 Depositors Account	£100,000+	8.50%		5.88%	
	£50,000+	8.00%		5.50%	
	£25,000+	7.50%		5.12%	
	£10,000+	7.00%		4.75%	
	£5,000+	6.50%		4.38%	
	£1+	1.00%		1.00%	
Investment Bond (Secure Investment Account Third Issue)	£10,000+	10.00%		7.38%	
Charity	£1+	7.50%		5.00%	
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Closed Issue	£5,000+	4.00%		2.00%	
(Bristol Plus)	£500+	4.00%		2.00%	
Overseas 3 Month Capital Investment Bond (First Class Bond)	£25,000+	8.00%		5.38%	
	£10,000+	7.50%		5.00%	
	£5,000+	7.00%		4.62%	
Overseas Prime Access	£25,000+	7.50%		5.00%	
	£10,000+	7.00%		4.62%	
	£5,000+	6.50%		4.25%	
	£1+	1.00%		1.00%	
Checkmate Silver Shares	£1+	4.25%	4.25%	2.25%	2.25%
Checkmate Gold Shares	£1+	4.00%	4.00%	2.00%	2.00%
Checkmate Special (and related accounts)	£25,000+	8.00%		5.38%	
	£10,000+	7.50%		5.00%	
	£5,000+	7.00%		4.62%	
	£1+	1.00%		1.00%	
Checkmate Income Account (and related accounts)	£25,000+	8.00%		5.38%	
	£10,000+	7.50%		5.00%	
	£5,000+	7.00%		4.62%	
	£1+	1.00%		1.00%	
Checkmate Regular Savings	£1+	4.25%		2.25%	
Checkmate TESSA S	£1+	11.00%			
TESSA Plus	£10,000+	10.75%		7.38%	
Personal	£25,000+	10.00%		7.38%	
Personal Account	£25,000+	10.00%		7.38%	
No. 1 Income (Closed Issue)	£25,000+	8.00%	7.75%	5.38%	5.38%
	£10,000+	7.50%	7.25%	5.00%	5.00%
	£5,000+	7.00%	6.75%	4.62%	4.62%
	£1+	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
Triple Income (Closed Issue)	£25,000+	8.00%	5.40%	5.38%	5.38%
	£10,000+	7.50%	4.90%	5.00%	5.00%
	£5,000+	7.00%	4.40%	4.62%	4.62%
	£1+	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
Overseas Income (Closed Issue)	£25,000+	8.00%	5.40%	5.38%	5.38%
	£10,000+	7.50%	4.90%	5.00%	5.00%
	£5,000+	7.00%	4.40%	4.62%	4.62%
	£1+	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%



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مكتبة

No plugs for Spark

Philip Howard hails a fine and elusive writer

The vital Spark of divinely bitchy flame is back in London on a short visit. Muriel Spark arrived yesterday to lecture to the Royal Society of Literature and discreetly to endure the distasteful and unnecessary business of publicising her autobiography, *Curriculum Vitae*. She is one of the most elusive big cats in the literary jungle. Mrs Spark left England for good nearly 25 years ago, partly to avoid the limelight, and now lives a very private and hard-working professional writer's life in Italy with her friend and companion, Penny Jardine. She has been back occasionally since, to launch previous books. But on occasions, she and Miss Jardine have had second thoughts at Boulogne, and headed back to Tuscany.

Her attitude that what matters are the books, and that her life is her own business, is *Helio* heresy to our modern obsession with the private lives of celebrities. But Mrs Spark has a point. It would not add a scrap to the merit of Shakespeare's plays and sonnets to have his life done over by the chat shows and Dumpster and the Kottweiler-profile scribblers. For a writer, the poems and the novels are the point of life. It is only publishers, and others who do not understand what literature is about, who are obsessed by the lives of authors.

In the circumstances, it is odd that such an elusive creature as Mrs Spark has even bothered to write her autobiography. But this is a pretty odd kind of autobiography, done in vignettes and Proustian flashes of times past, leaving great chunks out where the public has no business to go. It opens with marvellous little flashbacks to Morningside, the post end of Edinburgh, 70 years ago, so that you can nearly smell the hot new morning baps at the baker's, and hear the beery roars of applause for Florrie Forde at the music hall. Mrs Spark has always been brilliant at the particularities of life.

But she is reticent to the point of taciturnity about her brief marriage at the age of 19 to Sydney Oswald Spark, for whom she had a diamond ring engraved SOS. And that seems to have been an appropriate acronym for both of them in Rhodesia. And there is very little about their son, Robin, who lives in Edinburgh. It is not relevant, you can imagine the publicity director pleading: "I simply don't believe this. You must put in more human interest and sex." And being skewered by Mrs Spark's needle eye.

And of course there is plenty of human interest and comedy, on episodes that Mrs Spark cares to make public, such as her wartime work of black propaganda to Germany and the slings and arrows of outrageous literary egos during her work as secretary of the Poetry Society. She has scores to settle and errors to correct in disinformation that has been published about her. Miss Brodie's star pupil has always cared passionately for the truth. She is particularly sharp to correct the account of her given by her unauthorised biographer and one-time companion, Derek Stanford. In his *Inside The Forties*, published in 1977, Mr Stanford alleged that Muriel Spark believed T.S. Eliot had a crush on her, and was raiding her larder and sending her coded messages through the blubs of Faber Books. He is about to get his comeuppance in the authorised version.

Her arch enemy, Dame Marie Stopes, the campaigner for birth control, is among others who get Sparked. Observing that Dame Marie lived for years with Alfred Douglas, the appalling lover of Oscar Wilde, Mrs Spark says, "an arrangement I imagine would satisfy any woman's craving for birth control". Dr Stopes arrived at Poetry Society meetings shaking her fist: "I used to think it a pity that her mother, rather than she, had not thought of birth control."

It is a short cracker of a book, full of love and malice, black wit, intelligence and sharp perceptions and judgments. Characteristically, it ends with the publication of her first novel in 1956. Friends, famous and obscure, will be the subject of another volume. It will make friends and enemies rush to look apprehensively in the index. We wait impatiently for it, and the next novels. The professional writer in exile and very reluctant celebrity is a literary reproach to the vulgarities of her age. If you want to know any more, read her poems and novels.

David Pannick QC on the tasks facing Lord Donaldson's successor as Master of the Rolls

Questions of judgment

The judicial office of Master of the Rolls has not always been filled by distinguished jurists who inspired respect and admiration. It was said of Sir Julius Caesar, Master of the Rolls from 1614-1636, that counsel were prone to play on him "a slye jest". Sir Lloyd Kenyon, who held office from 1784-1788, was criticised for being "unacquainted with every portion of human knowledge except the corner of jurisprudence which he professionally cultivated". Sir John Leach, Master of the Rolls 1827-1834, was so habitually rude to the Bar that a delegation of leading counsel protested to him about his behaviour.

Lord Donaldson, who has announced his retirement as Master of the Rolls, the presiding judge of the Court of Appeal, had to follow an act unique in legal history. Lord Denning, who held the office from 1962 to 1982, boasted in one of his books that his "appearances on television have been so frequent that taxi-drivers and passers-by

recognise me", and that he was the proud possessor of T-shirts from all over the world adorned with "a photograph of me in my full-bottomed wig".

Lord Donaldson adopted a lower profile. As he explained during a debate in the House of Lords last month on wigs and gowns, he considered one of the benefits of court attire to be that a juror who saw him "shopping in Woolworths in plain clothes had not the slightest idea" who Donaldson was.

Nevertheless, in a more subtle way than his predecessor, Lord Donaldson used the media very skillfully. An annual report and regular interviews with journalists have been powerful weapons in a running battle with the Lord Chancellor's Department for more judges so as to reduce waiting lists. Despite Lord Donaldson's efforts, delays have

increased by 12.5 per cent in the last 12 months.

The primary achievement of Lord Donaldson over the past ten years is to have focused the attention of lawyers on the need for efficiency in litigation. The skeleton argument is replacing the lengthy, and often pointless, peroration. Lord Donaldson understood that it is increasingly important to ensure that courts are able to offer a service to all customers: those in court, those waiting for their case to come on, and those who fear that further delays will encourage their opponents to institute hopeless appeals for tactical reasons.

This has not always been to the liking of advocates who enjoy the sound of their own voice, and clients who want to hear value for their money. Critics of the modern Court of

Appeal echo what Lord Justice Bowen said in 1892 of the late Master of the Rolls, Sir George Jessel, that he was "a great lawyer, but a capital lawyer, and one who certainly sometimes brushed away cases in a speedy and perhaps somewhat imperious way".

Lord Donaldson's successor will need to be an administrator who can increase the efficiency of a legal system that continues to resist radical reform of its procedures of unlimited oral advocacy by a movement towards greater reliance on out-of-court preparation by the judiciary and barristers. He (the first female Master of the Rolls is probably still at the Bar) will need to have considerable persuasive powers to win from the Lord Chancellor an increase in the number of judges. He needs to be a jurist able to communi-

cate to both lawyers and the public principled answers to complex problems.

The Court of Appeal has a pivotal role in the English legal system. It hears about 1500 cases a year in all areas of civil jurisdiction. The highest court in the land, the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords, can manage to decide no more than 100 cases a year. The Master of the Rolls, who can select which cases he hears and which two of his brethren sit with him in any particular week, has greater judicial power to mould civil law than any other serving judge.

Many of the cases heard each week are of no conceivable interest to anyone, but the parties. But a substantial proportion of the decisions made by the Master of the Rolls and his colleagues are fundamental to

the nature of our society. Should an anorexic 16-year-old be force-fed? Are those threatened with deportation on national security grounds during the Gulf War entitled to a fair hearing of the allegations against them? Should newspapers be allowed to publish information from *Spycatcher*? Does the judiciary have power to find that a Minister of the Crown has acted in contempt of court?

The judge who is appointed by the Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister to succeed Lord Donaldson as Master of the Rolls will have as much power and influence over our lives as any public servant outside the Cabinet. As Lord Chancellor Thorburn warned at the end of the 18th century, the legal system is in so sensitive a condition that a bad appointment as Master of the Rolls could "nibble us both into the ditch".

The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

Hard currency, hard options

Norman Lamont is boxed in on the pound, writes Peter Riddell

The mood in Whitehall late yesterday morning among senior ministers and their advisers was jittery. "Have you heard yet?" the uninformed were asking the informed. Civil servants awaited phone calls and listened for beepers to go off. It was like the aimless speculation before a ministerial reshuffle, only this time the focus was on Franklurt and the Bundesbank rather than on Downing Street. The news, when it came, was not good, even if the Treasury and the Bank of England seek for the moment to hold down British interest rates. But John Major is not worried. The government has already decided to do whatever is necessary to defend the current exchange rate against the German mark, even if it means higher interest rates and short-term political difficulties.

No one can now be in any doubt where the government stands. Over the past two weeks Mr Major and Norman Lamont have been as unequivocal as they could. One minister said to me that July 1992 may in time be regarded as a defining moment in the history of the Major administration. By their current policies Mr Major and Mr Lamont will stand, or fall. There is little room for manoeuvre.

The government is committed to "getting inflation out of the system" and being "at the heart of the community". As Mr Major told the *Sunday Times*, "why should I trim on Europe? Do we need a Europe led by the French and Germans, with the British having no influence?" Mr Lamont was equally firm in his speech to the European Policy Forum on the exchange rate mechanism (ERM). He ruled out all alternatives — cutting interest rates immediately, a German realignment within the ERM, a devaluation by sterling within the ERM, leaving the ERM and cutting interest rates, and leaving the ERM and setting interest rates according to domestic monetary

targets. Each option would in time, he argued, lead to higher rather than lower interest rates as well as to a more rapid rate of inflation. So the ERM it is, for better or worse.

Mr Major argues that this does not mean that Britain is bound entirely by what happens in Germany. In the 20 months since sterling joined the ERM, German interest rates have gone up by about 3 per cent, while sterling rates have fallen by 5 percentage points. But we are now near the limits. Only for 16 weeks in the 1980s did we have lower interest rates than Germany; or, as John Biffen put it this week, "waiting for Helmut".

Mr Biffen's fellow Euro-irreconcilable, Nicholas Budgen, teased a Treasury minister in the Commons a few days ago, suggesting, "as a matter of convenience", that "the Bundesbank should communicate direct to the House, because it seems sad that he should have to second-guess what it says and go through the humiliation of being a mere messenger for that foreign body".

The government's calculation is that it has time on its side. An election is at least three and probably four years off. Long before polling day the world economy will be growing more strongly, once the difficulties of German unification have been resolved and the big build-up of personal and corporate debt of the 1980s has been reversed. Meanwhile, it would be counterproductive for Britain to risk any resurgence of inflation.

Mr Lamont may now be in a lonely position as chancellor, defying his many critics, as Stafford Cripps was in the late 1940s and James Callaghan was in the mid-1960s, but he has the backing of his prime minister. The unity of Mr Major



Facing up to a currency crisis: Stafford Cripps, James Callaghan and Norman Lamont.

and Mr Lamont has ensured that there is no dissent in cabinet, whatever the private apprehensions of some ministers. Mr Lamont also has the benefit of the doubt for the time being from most Tory MPs, in

spite of the vocal protests of the guerrilla band of irreconcilables. The widely published warnings last weekend by John Townend, chairman of the Tory backbench finance committee, that there would be pressure to

devalue sterling if the economy was not showing signs of recovery by early next year, were exaggerated. Mr Townend is taken more seriously than his abilities or views justify. He is chairman of the backbench

finance committee thanks to skilful electioneering by Sir George Gardiner of the 92 Group, rather than because he is representative of backbench opinion. One shrewd knight of the shires said he regarded the current mood as nervous, but no more yet.

The rumblings of discontent could be louder by the time of the Conservative party conference in early October or when the Commons returns in three months' time, if there are not some green shoots by then. The economy could also complicate the handling of the Maastricht treaty. That is, at present, in limbo awaiting the French referendum on September 20. Provided there is a yes vote (far from certain), the government hopes to revive the Maastricht legislation in the late autumn, but the number of Tory rebels could be boosted by those worried about the economy. But, after many late nights and close votes, I still expect the treaty to be ratified.

Over the longer-term, the most difficult time for the government will be at the end of next year and in the first half of 1994. That is when Tory MPs will start looking towards the next election and when the Labour Party should be making a strong showing if it is ever going to. The attitude of ministers is "we have been through tough times before — in 1961, 1965 and 1990 — and we can survive them again." Tory MPs, never the most resolute bunch, shy, however, start panicking then, as they did on these previous occasions.

The Labour party has already begun to distance itself from its previous unqualified embrace of the ERM. Since the election John Smith has edged towards calling for an ERM realignment involving a revaluation by Germany, as yesterday endorsed by Neil Kinnock. That could increasingly look a credible opposition stance if it is taken up more widely. Mr Major can no longer count on a cross-party consensus on the ERM. Differences over macro-economic policy could again return to the centre of the party debate.



...and moreover

ALAN COREN

A small part of me just died. You can get away with a line like that, in circumstances like these. Preferably it should be croaked, ideally through a week's stubble, and were I to be croaking in the dust and squinting up at a noonday gong of sun, that wouldn't hurt, either. On the second take, the director might even ask me to spit, since we are talking here about the days before tough guys died, when the only water permitted to come out of a man's face at moments of profound emotion was saliva.

I have lost my Zippo. This is not a Marx brother or a Bulgarian van or a one-step furnishing polish, it is a cigarette lighter. It is the cigarette lighter. It is the Platonic essence of cigarette lighters, of which all others are but flashy and inferior derivatives. Direct heir to the tinder-box, the Zippo is a plain steel oblong, two inches by one inch, containing a wheel, a flint and a wick-bound wad of petrol-soaked lint.

It does not have spring-loaded ignition, it does not have an electronic spark, it does not run on gas or titchy solar batteries, it does not have an adjustable flame or instant flint-load or valve-controlled fuel injection, or any of the other ritz accoutrements of what modern marketing no doubt calls in-pocket personal enflaming systems: what you do with a Zippo is you thumb the lid open and then bring the thumb back across the wheel, and a flame

explodes on the wick. It is a big flame, a man's flame, because you have to keep a Zippo topped up at all times, given its tendency to evaporate into surrounding clothing. This is not a shortcoming, it is the means by which Zippo-philes recognise one another as soon as they enter a room: the twitch of the nostril is what we have instead of a masonic hand-shake. If there is danger involved in this spillage, so much the better, for we are hard men, unafraid to walk with risk, and while it has long been my conjecture that cases of so-called spontaneous combustion are in truth but Death serving notice on Zippo-carriers not to stand too close to open fires, frankly I have never given a damn in 30 years.

The Zippo cost me a thousand bucks in 1962, when a dollar was a dollar. Though I could have walked into a store and bought one for \$5, that is not what I did. I bought mine with a year's worth of S & H Green Stamps, making the receipt of it a total Stateside experience, because it was not only a Zippo, as quintessentially American as the Coke bottle and the Cadillac, it was a metonymic signifier of all I had literally become for a year. I had stuffed my frame with frankfurters and chili beans and buttermilk and toasted pecans and Napa Valley wine and Pilsbury cookies and Hershey bars and Grape Nuts, and everything else my local supermarket insisted I buy before they gave me the stamps, which

meant that the arrival, at last, of the Zippo was nothing less than a triumph of symbolism. But it was also much more. It was a ticket to myth. Up until then I had been lighting my Chesterfields with a poncey little Ronson brought with me from England, but now I had a big butch Zippo, you could fire it double-action (cock it open, pause, flick, light) or fan it, single-action, with your thumb. This was the Zippo 45, the smoke-maker, the lighter that won the West, this was the best thing a man could carry without a licence, it was what stretch-bearers reached for to light last cigarettes on two Jims, or at least on two Hollywood, it was what limelighted Lauren Bacall's face just before the Hays Office drew the blinds and Phillip Marlowe's just before the blackjack met his ear. It was what you slid along the bar to the weepy torch-singer when it was quarter-to-three and there was no-one in the place except you and she.

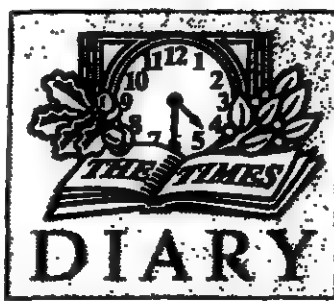
Even in Cricklewood, for icons, like space-probes, go on emitting their signals forever, no matter how distant their source. Which is why, prime among my regrets about the Zippo's loss, is my regret for the manner of it. I should not have minded quite so much I lost it in a poker game, or dropped it vaulting the Sing Sing wall, or left it on Lana Turner's bedside table, or even had it looted from my corpse by a German sniper. But I rather think it fell out of my pocket on the 13 bus.

Guildhall gossip

CONTRARY to most expectations, the next Master of the Rolls will be Lord Justice Bingham. While most reports have suggested that Lord Justice Woolf, 59, will take over from Lord Donaldson, it was Bingham's name which was on everyone's lips at the Lord Mayor's dinner at Guildhall on Wednesday night. The announcement about Bingham, also 59, has only been delayed, according to the gossip, until after the publication of his report into the BCCI affair last month.

Old-fashioned in style, Bingham's views are modern, to say the least. In 1989 his colleagues were aghast when he became the first judge to speak out strongly in favour of the government's proposed reforms of the legal profession. To the fury of other judges, Bingham, a doctor's son, boldly declared that the greatest threat to the bar was not the green paper: "But the profession's reaction to it". Like Donaldson, Bingham is not moved by the other important legal question: should judges wear wigs. He would happily set his aside. In his spare time he goes to his cottage in the Welsh marches planting trees, mending fences and "keeping out sheep".

Michael Heseltine yesterday got his own back on Norman Lamont for axing Neddly, the National Economic Development Council. Heseltine has appointed Dr Walter Eltis, its director general, as chief economic adviser. Heseltine argued in his book *Where There's a Will* that the responsibilities of the forum should be brought under the Department of Trade. He could never have surely have envisaged quite how at the time.



Flutter on the wing

AS RICHARD BRANSON next week gambles his reputation on plans for a London-Edinburgh express rail service, the multi-millionaire businessman has dreamt up a new emolument for his passengers, both in the air, and presumably, on rail. "We might experiment with the idea of casinos in the air. We are always trying



to find new forms of entertainment for passengers. When they are in the air people have time on their hands." Branson this week launched a competition in conjunction with the V&A for art students to design playing cards to reflect Virgin Atlantic's "characteristics of travel".

Aides say Branson plans to use the winning entries for packs to be dealt out in flight. "Richard thinks it might be a good idea to have small casino areas on the top deck during transatlantic flights. There could be a couple of blackjack tables and perhaps a roulette wheel," an aide says. "You don't need a gaming licence at 30,000ft."

So, could high rollers also feature in Branson's rolling stock when he submits his private train plans to the Department of Transport next Tuesday? "I can't say," says Branson with a twinkle. "But we are hoping to do things very differently to British Rail."

Shipping line

LORD NELSON'S famous signal at the Battle of Trafalgar will be taken to heart by the new chairman of the Commons defence select committee. Sir Nicholas Cosmo Bonser, elected by MPs on Wednesday, is a direct descendant of Britain's best known admiral and, he says, there could be no better motto in his new role than "England expects that every man will do his duty".

"I suspect few MPs know about my connection," says Bonser, the Tory MP for Uppingham. "But Lord Nelson was my four times great uncle. There is a direct descendant from his elder brother, Bonser is an acknowledged military historian. His home, Liscombe Park, near Leighton Buzzard, is a shrine to Nelson. It boasts letters from both Nelson and from Lady Hamilton, the admiral's signet ring and a gallery of pictures depicting Nelson's most famous battles."

"I suppose it is an appropriate background for my new job," admits Bonser, who, like his ancestor, is a keen sailor and a member of the Royal Yacht

Squadron. "I like to think he would be happy to know that the strong military tradition is being preserved in the family."

Fitting and proper

BARONESS THATCHER's attachment to the Gettysburg Address, which she recently recorded, is not new. Sir Ronald Millar recently meeting with her in 1975 shortly after she had become party leader. He had been suggested to her as speech-writer — a role he went on to fill with some distinction — but the interview was going badly. Just before it was terminated he quoted Abraham Lincoln's peroration about "government of the people, by the people, for the people", whereupon to his amazement Mrs Thatcher produced a copy of the entire address from her handbag. "One of the greatest speeches ever written," she enthused. Her relationship with Millar, never looked back.

The Times archives reveal that not everyone at the time showed the same enthusiasm. The inauguration of the cemetery at Gettysburg was an imposing ceremony, this paper reported, only rendered ludicrous "by some of the luckless sallies of that poor president Lincoln".

With assorted Bosnians, Croats and Serbians in London talking to Lord Carrington, *LinguaPhone* is offering courses in Serbo-Croat. For £59 Carrington can become proficient to A-level standard. "We run a 14-day free trial," says the sales department. But not everyone in the Balkans is enamoured with the language. The Croats are working hard at creating a new dictionary of uniquely *LinguaPhone* words. "A new far behind."



THE PEROT LEGACY

The political appeal of H. Ross Perot mirrored the contradictions that lie deep in the psyche of many American voters. They liked him because they wanted a government that gets things done. Yet for the past six years they have elected a Democrat-controlled Congress and a Republican president, as if to ensure the opposite. They liked him because he offered simple answers to complex questions. Yet his "solutions", where they existed, were incredible and changed from week to week. They liked him because he was a living legend. Yet they profess to want more modesty in their politicians. Now, after slipping from first to third place in the polls and failing to keep the lid on frustration within his staff, Mr Perot has withdrawn from the American presidential contest. The contradictions he revealed are unchanged.

Ronald Reagan made a career out of straddling these contradictions. He promised Americans that he could both cut taxes and reduce the budget deficit through a "trickle-down" effect. The result is a budget deficit approaching \$400 billion that threatens the economy and precludes extra public spending. No presidential campaigner, except perhaps for the early Democrat contender, Paul Tsongas, has dared to address this contradiction head-on. To do so would involve saying the unsayable: that taxes must rise or that government cannot spend more on the services Americans want. Ross Perot too perpetuated the myth that complex difficulties could be easily resolved.

Yet the fact that an independent, amateur politician could leapfrog an incumbent president and his Democrat opponent in the polls during much of election year has shaken the complacency of the political establishment. Like sporadic high levels of support for a third party in Britain, the message of disgust at conventional politics was clearly intended to be both sent and received by the electorate.

How can President Bush and Governor Clinton now capitalise on Mr Perot's departure? Yesterday pundits were uncertain

about which candidate would garner the votes that would otherwise have gone to Mr Perot. Mr Bush should be able to harvest the many Perot supporters who were at heart right-wing Republicans. Yet Mr Perot also won favour among the so-called Reagan Democrats: white, blue-collar workers who voted Democrat until 1980 and then switched allegiance, rather like the skilled working-class voters in Britain who supported Margaret Thatcher in 1979. They voted for Mr Reagan because they thought he would make them better off. They are now suffering from the recession and are ripe for Mr Clinton's picking.

The Democrats have the additional advantage that they are fielding two of the most conservative candidates the party has seen since the second world war. Determined to shake off the liberal, tax-and-spend label, Messrs Clinton and Gore could appeal to those Perot supporters who are conservative on the economy but libertarian in their instincts. Also a vote for the Democrats is a vote for change, albeit less radical a change than a Perot presidency would have brought.

Mr Clinton may still not be able to grasp the opportunity this presents. If he presents himself as a radical in order to woo those bored with conventional politics, he risks scaring off the moderates whose votes he so desperately needs. If he actively seeks ethnic minorities, he will deter the conservative whites of the Perot camp. Mr Bush, unlike Mr Reagan, cannot distance himself from the Washington cabals that the American public so affects to despise. His only hope is to portray the Clinton/Gore ticket as dangerously liberal.

In other words Mr Perot may have done less to shake up the presidential race than many will have hoped. Mr Clinton will probably continue to appear reassuring, with few new ideas to frighten the nervous. Mr Bush will doubtless run the same, negative campaign that worked to good effect against Governor Dukakis in 1988. Plus ça change, plus ça sont American party politics.

PLAYING AT PEACE

The dance of Western leaders round the smouldering ruins of Sarajevo descended to absurdity yesterday as partisans of uncertain status visited Christie's auction house in London to see Christie's chairman, Lord Carrington. Meanwhile Douglas Hurd has flown to Sarajevo to be seen to be "doing something" during the British presidency of the European Community. George Bush, worried about his re-election chances, has sent warships into the Adriatic. Nobody has the slightest idea of how the implacable hostility of the various Yugoslav peoples can be resolved. But everybody wants to be seen as active.

The role of external intervention in that sad country needs to be retained again and again. No foreign statesman is likely to settle the future of the Balkans. The world must not be sucked into some wider regional war, nor must the existing conflict be further extended by explicit sponsorship of one side or another. Outside mediation in the affairs of distant nations may occasionally help, though cases of it doing so are hard to find. Even United Nations peacekeeping is usually confined to keeping communities apart in the hope that they can one day settle differences on their own.

Whether they be elected leaders or merely local warlords, the idea that summoning communal leaders to London can promote peace is not just a case of hope triumphing over experience. It echoes a post-imperial pretension that British diplomacy can bang together the heads of fractious natives to make them behave. Such efforts may have carried meaning when backed by the coercion of Britain's imperial army, but not today, not by any leap of the imagination. The nearest intervention might come to

real leverage is by condemning territorial aggrandisement against states newly recognised as independent. Since the chief, though not the only, villain of the Yugoslav piece is Serbia, it is Serbia that stands most strongly condemned. But toppling or changing the mind of President Milosevic, as that of Saddam Hussein or Colonel Gaddafi, is unlikely to be achieved by military or economic pressure — short of fullscale invasion and occupation from outside, which is not going to occur.

Random airstrikes against individual guns may seem tactically simple and morally uplifting in the armchairs of London and Washington. But the only serious constraint on Serbian behaviour is collective action to deny arms imports, and relentless publicity for atrocities committed by those paid and supplied by President Milosevic. There are Serbs with consciences who somehow must be emboldened to use the political weapons to hand in Belgrade to bring their current ruler to heel.

As for direct foreign intervention, this should be confined to relieving the suffering caused by war and to enforcing the sanctions intended to deny Serbia weapons of aggression. The reaction of the world to images of death and destruction is naturally to want to call a halt. It is not easy to treat the symptoms of civil war and yet not to tackle its causes. Nor is it easy to know where the protection of relief supplies tips over into a wider involvement in a civil conflict. One man's humanitarian relief is another's aid to the enemy. But no outside agency can force hostile communities to live at peace with one another if they decide otherwise. Watching events in the former Yugoslavia is painful. Directing them is beyond our power.

DEGREES OF HONOUR

Gary Lineker, the star striker for Spurs and England, was better known until recently for his spectacular right foot and his sporting rather than his academic prowess — four O-levels in all. Yesterday, all that changed when Leicester University awarded him an honorary degree. Lenny Henry, the comic, similarly found himself an honorary Master of Arts at Warwick University. Will audiences aware of his newly acquired erudition find his humorous sketches more amusing?

The flood gates of honorary degrees are well and truly opened. American colleges used to be scorned in Britain for their readiness to give a degree to anyone famous enough or rich enough to buy one. Yet this weekend Neil Kinnock will pick up an honorary degree from the University of Wales while Terry Waite picked up a similar award from Sussex earlier this week, both no doubt richly deserved for their suffering in recent years, but neither a true reflection of their contribution to scholarship.

In September 33 polytechnics will be turned into degree-awarding institutions, which means honorary degree-awarding institutions. Each one of them, desperate for money and fame, will be press-ganging celebrities and the rich to become an honorary graduate. Already Central Lancashire University (the Poly as was) has lined up Wigan's most famous actor, Sir Ian McKellen, and the newsreader Fiona Armstrong. In future no sports star, television personality or moneybags need go for long without letters after their names.

Some bastions of higher learning will continue to stand out against this trend. It is said that Chicago University, when pressed to give the Queen an honorary degree, followed its strict rule and earnestly enquired about her relevant publications. Oxford refused to honour Margaret Thatcher, a

decision many dons in search of extra funding later regretted.

In England's two most ancient universities, an MA is sold to their own graduates for just £10 — surely well below the market clearing price. For outsiders, though, market forces rule. Should either of these universities refuse an honorary degree, their constituent colleges will show few scruples about offering their favoured sons and benefactors an honorary fellowship.

There should be no blowing of raspberries, therefore, over Leicester's choice of Mr Lineker from the high tables of Wadham, Oxford, or St Edmund's, Cambridge, who chose to make Sholto Okinga, the biggest shareholder in the Mitsubishi bank, an honorary fellow last year. Mr Okinga, whose wit and learning may have swung the fellows of both colleges behind him, became the first man ever to be made a fellow of a college at both universities on the same day. He happily repaid this generosity of spirit with a spontaneous £4.5 million to Wadham and £1.5 million to St Edmund's.

Like most other honours in Britain it is time to end the cant about how and why they are awarded. There are colleges named after the Wolfson family in both Oxford and Cambridge, not as a result of scholarship or holiness, but because of generosity. Higher education will be in dire need of more such philanthropy in the 1990s.

So just as we honour great scholars, let us also honour the men who use their wealth to create new halls, colleges or branches of learning. And from the footballers, entertainers, newsreaders and other assorted showbiz types with or without O-levels, who wish to don gown and mortar board and pick up a finely inscribed vellum roll, let them simply be charged the going rate. Degrees should not be devalued by giving them away.

Monetary views of 'Liverpool Six'

From Professor David Currie and Mr Geoffrey Dicks

Sir, In his speech to the European Policy Forum last week (report, July 11) the Chancellor eloquently anticipated the policy prescription of Professor Congdon and others — "the Liverpool Six" — as spelled out in their letter of July 14.

Mr Lamont described the call for the UK to leave the exchange-rate mechanism and return to an independent monetary policy as the "cut and run" option — a cut in interest rates followed by a run on the pound tomorrow. Sterling depreciation would then set up inflationary forces which would have to be offset by higher interest rates again.

Yet in the reopening of their call for "a properly constructed regime of money-supply targets" in place of ERM membership, Professor Congdon and his colleagues ignore this analysis. Surely it is time for them to spell out in more detail their policy proposals and how they would work rather than just criticise the present approach.

Do they for example accept that the pound would fall sharply under their proposals? Would this not, as the Chancellor argues, raise inflation? Do the Liverpool Six want more inflation in the short term as a way of reducing the debt burden and putting more life into the housing market? If so they should say so.

It is also time for the Liverpool Six to come clean on their money supply targets. Do they think that a 2.5 per cent growth in M0 (the narrow measure of growth, focusing on notes and coins and balances at the Bank of England) is too low? How high should it be? Or are they more concerned that M4 growth (the broader measure of liquidity) is only 5.2 per cent? If so, how fast a growth in M4 are they looking for? More specifically, do properly constituted targets focus on M0 or M4?

We do not deny that the UK's experience in the ERM has been difficult and that output prospects remain weak. But we do agree with the Chancellor that it is wrong to suggest that there are easy alternatives which will deliver low and stable inflation over the medium term. Just when we are in sight of sustaining the lowest inflation rate for a generation, the Liverpool Six proposals offer the prospect of some short-term relief at the expense of the longer-term objectives.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID CURRIE,
GEOFFREY DICKS,
Centre for Economic Forecasting,
London Business School,
Sussex Place, Regent's Park, NW1,
July 16.

Pedestrianised London

From Councillor Alex Segal

Sir, Sir Nicholas Goodison (letter, July 10) asks why local government has failed to introduce large-scale pedestrianisation to the centre of London.

Westminster City Council is constantly looking at ways of achieving just this. We have introduced a number of schemes of our own, most notably in Leicester Square and the surrounding streets, reopened last month by the Queen (report, June 9). We must, however, balance the needs of the pedestrian against the need to keep traffic moving. As long as cars continue to pour into London at the present rate one man's pedestrian scheme will be another man's traffic jam.

The only long-term solution to this problem is road-pricing or some other means of reducing the number of cars in London, but that will require government action which would have our full support. Meanwhile, central London is fortunate in having so many large parks and open spaces which offer great opportunities for walking.

Yours faithfully,
ALEX SEGAL,
(Chairman, Planning and Development Committee),
Westminster City Council,
Westminster City Hall,
Victoria Street, SW1,
July 13.

From Mr Rupert White

Sir, Sir Nicholas Goodison is absolutely right. I suggest as a candidate for at least partial pedestrianisation the rectangle formed by Piccadilly, Lower Regent Street, Pall Mall and St James's Street. At the heart of London, this would be the perfect place to start.

Stroll on St James's.
Yours faithfully,
RUPERT WHITE,
21 Cleveland Place,
St James's, SW1,
July 10.

Green towels

From Mr M. Gee

Sir, On a recent trip to Stuttgart, Germany, I found a notice in my hotel bathroom in three languages (letters, July 7, 10, 14):

Please decide for yourself. Towels on the floor means: "Please change them." Towels on the towel rail means: "I will use them again."

In my household the former means the kids are home.

Yours sincerely,
M. GEE,
263 Earlsfield Road, SW18,
July 14.

MPs' expenses and the work they do

From Mrs Edwina Currie, MP for Derbyshire South (Conservative)

Sir, Press comment on MPs' office allowances has been generally and predictably hostile (leading article, July 16). Leaving on one side the fact that political editors do not fork out for their own assistants, secretarial staff, office accommodation, typewriters and travel, nor account for all of them to the Inland Revenue, an analysis of the 41 Conservatives who voted for the increase is revealing.

Half have marginal seats, as I have, with majorities below 10,000. Two others were marginal seats in the last Parliament. Four were won back for the Tories after severe losses at by-elections — Langborough, Ribblesdale, Monmouth and Mid-Staffordshire. One (Milton Keynes North East) was an entirely new seat this time. Eight were new candidates with the difficult task of replacing established and well known members.

The increased political arousal of such constituencies leads to far more approaches to MPs and far higher expectations than in areas undisturbed for years with far majorities.

In addition some have elections away over the average: in South Derbyshire we are nudging 84,000 and climbing steadily, yet there is no extra allowance. I fail to see how I can go to these good people and ask for their vote, if I do not have the staff and equipment to answer their enquiries promptly and efficiently.

Yours unapologetically,
EDWINA CURRIE,
House of Commons,
July 16.

Select committees

From Sir Edward du Cann

Sir, Your leading article today, "Selecting committees", is right in an important respect. It is excellent that there is competition among backbench MPs to serve on the departmental select committees.

The committees were a significant constitutional innovation in the 1979 parliament. When they do their work well they are a formidable tool for our elected representatives to subject the workings of the executive to a continuous scrutiny and a more effective examination than debate in the chamber allows. Debates today are better informed in consequence of their work.

I am sure you are wrong, however, to suggest that the whips should be excluded altogether from the process of selection. There is no other mechanism in the House through which the Committee of Selection

can be informed, nor is there ever likely to be.

As the first elected chairman of the body established to afford a liaison between select committee chairmen, I can confirm that when these committees were first constituted there was general agreement in the House that the process of selection, assisted by the whips of all parties, worked well and fairly.

I knew of no formal rule that membership of a committee should be limited to three parliaments. What was generally agreed was that backbench MPs should take turns in serving on the committees. No one, not even the most distinguished or most able participant, was to enjoy a freehold term of office; only a short leasehold. This, it was agreed, was in the general interest.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD DU CANN,
9 Tufton Court, Tufton Street, SW1,
July 14.

while other tasks have increased, it then proposes cutting 32 of these units from the army as a whole, some 33 per cent of its combat power.

This will mean that almost all those units that are left will be permanently preparing for, carrying out, or recovering from, low intensity tasks in Northern Ireland, Belize, the Falklands or with the UN, with very little interval between tours. Certainly no brigade or division will ever be complete for training for anything else; and with modern high-technology equipment this is very serious.

The new defence white paper (report, July 8) appears to recognise these problems where it defines the new defence priorities, but it must next make a realistic allocation of resources to them. The "Options" plan can well remain an objective for the future, but it is now essential to slow down the speed of the reductions until commitments can be reduced. Otherwise, should any existing task increase or a new one occur, we shall be in serious trouble.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN FARNDALE,
The East India Club,
16 St James's Square, SW1,
July 13.

penses have changed since then are simply "forecasts".

Since the dentists have been arguing ever since the new contract that government calculations of their expenses were wrong, they may regard government figures for dentists' incomes as a conjecture deduced from an error. Before ministers let National Health Service dentistry disappear they should consider it possible they may be mistaken.

Yours sincerely,
RUSSELL,
House of Lords,
July 14.

Cutting army strength

From General Sir Martin Farndale

Sir, In his article of July 2 on the obstacles to British military intervention in Yugoslavia Michael Evans rightly referred to the small size of the army in relation to its current tasks. General Crookenden, in a letter published on the same day, stressed the vital need to create an army better matched to the dangerous world of today. These points cannot be made too strongly.

The army is already too small to meet all the tasks it faces, to guard the families and barracks it leaves behind as it carries them out, and to train for war. Even at full strength, most of the units which perform most of these tasks — the armour, artillery and infantry — need reinforcement from other units before they can meet them. Thus the men of many more units are involved than there are tasks being performed. This is about to get worse as the cuts begin to bite.

The "Options" plan was designed against a reduced threat in Eastern Europe and therefore proposes cutting, inter alia, 20 armoured, artillery and infantry units in Germany. This might be understandable, but

Dentists' distress

From Earl Russell

Sir, The dispute over dentists' pay (report and leading article, July 7) raises the question what dentists' net incomes actually are.

In a written answer in the House of Lords (Hansard, July 2, W.A.55) the government explained that dentists' receipts, based on volume of work, are calculated net of expenses. The government admits that its figures are "estimates". These are arrived at on the basis of dentists' receipts for 1991-2 and of their expenses for 1989-90. Calculations of how ex-

US policy on Israel

From the Director of the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding

Sir, I would like to commend your view of the status quo in the Middle East, as expressed in your editorial of July 15, "Prophet of peace". Cautious optimism is probably the wisest approach; but a warning note must be sounded to the United States on what you describe as its "leverage".

Given Rabin's public commitment to settlements in the occupied territories which are there for security rather than political-religious reasons, President Bush and Secretary Baker would do well to bear in mind that under international law these

settlements are no less illegal than the rest.

Any tacit approval of Israeli policy expressed by the US granting the \$10 billion loan guarantees will not only free Israeli finances for sustaining "security" settlements, but will be in direct contravention of America's responsibility as a co-signatory (as is Israel) of the fourth Geneva Convention — article 49 (section 3) of which expressly forbids the settling of citizens of the occupying power in the territory it occupies.

Moreover, the United States has the mandatory duty under section 1 of the convention to enforce Israel's total compliance.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD MILLS,
Director,
Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding,
The Arab-British Centre,
21 Collingham Road, SW5.

Readers' fee at British Library?

From Mr Brian Lake

Sir, The British Library Board will be deciding on July 17 whether to impose, for the first time in the history of the library, a charge for readers' tickets.

Access to the BL's books and manuscripts has always been free of charge to those who can demonstrate a reasonable need to consult the nation's archive, held in trust for the people by the library's management. Now, for the sake of a net income of probably less than £200,000 per annum, the library is prepared to alienate librarians and readers.

At a time of crisis, when senior management should be consulting readers to gain their support, no discussions have taken place. It is to be hoped that the board will draw back from the brink so that a proper debate can take place.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN LAKE,
Regular Readers' Group,
British Library,
46 Great Russell Street, WC1,
July 15.

The law and anorexia

From the President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists

Sir, Anorexia nervosa is a terrible illness and if sufferers are not adequately treated some will eventually die. The Court of Appeal has ruled, in the case of "J", a 16-year-old anorexic girl, that teenagers between the ages of 16 and 18 can be legally required to accept medical treatment without their consent (report and leading article, July 11).

On rare occasions compulsory treatment may necessitate the use of the Mental Health Act, 1983, with compulsory admission to hospital for treatment, "so detained in the interests of his (sic) own health or safety..." The Mental Health Act Commission quite appropriately regards anorexia nervosa as a "mental illness" within the meaning of the Act, and accepts that compulsory admission and treatment under the Mental Health Act will sometimes be necessary.

The Mental Health Act is framed for the benefit of mentally ill people irrespective of age. It acknowledges the basic human right of a civilised society that one should be cared for when one cannot care for oneself. This would have been the most appropriate way to have ensured that such a severely ill patient as "J" received necessary care and treatment.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW SIMS,
President, Royal College of Psychiatrists,
17 Belgrave Square, SW1,
July 15.

From Dr James B. McWhinnie

Sir, The reasons for the judgment by the Court of Appeal in the case of "J" may now cause for the medical officers concerned a dilemma needing further clarification.

I was a consultant for 22 years in a hospital psychiatric unit for adolescents with special provisions for girls with anorexia nervosa. In numerous cases where severely ill 16 to 18-year-old anorexic patients refused consent for treatment it was recommended and accepted that compulsory treatment be given under an order of the Mental Health Act.

This I believe has two merits. The Act requires that it be fully explained to the patient what are her rights for review of such an order or for appeal to a mental health review tribunal. I have not experienced an appeal being upheld by a tribunal where a treatment order was made to prevent serious risk to life or health. The patients also appreciate being treated as adults.

Medical code of practice requires that a patient should consider consent that is informed. The use of common law "inherent jurisdiction", as in the case of "J", may now require medical officers of 16 to 18-year-old patients whose serious illness impairs their rationality to inform them that it is their right to give consent but not to refuse it.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES B. MCWHINNIE,
2 Norham Road,
Norham Road, Oxford.

Upstairs, downstairs

From Baroness Jeger

Sir, David Lipsey ("Goodbye big spender", July 9) asks why Joe Soap's taxes should be used to provide child benefit, with which Lady Muck pays her cleaner.

The answer is that the Child Benefit Act, 1975, with all-party support, transferred the Inland Revenue child tax allowance from Lord Muck (who didn't need it and spent it on bimboes) to the mother of his children.

Mrs Joe Soap prefers the new arrangements. Meanwhile Lord Muck can still spend his index-linked married couple's allowance (which he doesn't need either) on anything he likes, whether such expenditure is supportive of his marriage or not.

Yours sincerely,
LENA M. JEGGER,
House of Lords,
July 12.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 16: The President of the European Parliament (Dr Egon Klepsch) was received by The Queen.

Mr Julian Harland-Swain (Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Rangoon), was received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the insignia of a Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George.

Mrs Harland-Swain was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir James Adams, Sir Alan Donald, Sir Michael Simpson-Orbell, Sir Crispin Tickell and Sir John Whitehead were received by The Queen on their retirement from the Diplomatic Service.

Lady Adams, Lady Donald, Lady Simpson-Orbell, Lady Tickell and Lady Whitehead were also received by The Queen.

KENSINGTON PALACE
July 16: The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, the Parachute Regiment, received Lieutenant Colonel Philip Nicolson on relinquishing command of the Tenth (Volunteer) Battalion, and Lieutenant Colonel Robert Kershaw on assuming the appointment.

The Princess of Wales this morning opened the St Mungo Community Trust's Patrick House at 17 Rivercourt Road, Hammersmith, London W6. Captain Edward Munro, RM was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
July 16: The Princess Margaret,

Countess of Snowdon, President, The Royal Ballet, was present at an evening at a performance by the Royal Ballet School at Holland Park Open Air Theatre.

Mrs Jane Stevens was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
July 16: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester this afternoon took the Salute at a Performance of the Royal Tournament at Earls Court, London SW5.

Dame Jean Maxwell-Scott and Major Nicholas Barne were in attendance.

The Duchess of Gloucester this evening attended the Final Concert and presented the Awards at the City of London Card Fleets International Violin Competition, Barbican Centre, London EC2.

Mrs Michael Wigley was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
July 16: Princess Alexandra today visited Cumbria and was received by Mr James Cropper (Vice-Lord Lieutenant of Cumbria).

Her Royal Highness visited the Queen Elizabeth School at Kirby Lonsdale, Cumbria.

Princess Alexandra subsequently visited James Cropper at Burnside Mills, Kendal.

The Lady Mary Murnford was in attendance.

Her Royal Highness, President of Sight Savers (Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind), was represented by Rear Admiral Sir John Garnier at the Funeral of Sir Edwin Arrowsmith which was held at All Saints Church, Fulham, this afternoon.

Birthdays today

Sir Hardy Amies, fashion designer; Sir Tim Brooke-Taylor, actor; 52: Sir Alan Cotter, former vice-chancellor, Cambridge University; 73: Mr Raymond Galt, sculptor; 62: Baroness Gordon of Parkes; 65: Mr W. Gordon Graham, publisher; 72: Mr Eric Hammond, trades unionist; 63: Mr J.M. Harper, former deputy managing director, British Telecommunications; 62: Sir William Henderson, former president, Zoological Society of London; 79: Sir William Haseldine, former Private Secretary to the Queen; 62: Lord Lane, former Lord Chief Justice; 74: the Right Rev D.R. Lunn, Bishop of Sheffield; 62: Dr Margot Reeves, historian; 87: Señor Juan Sánchez, president, International Olympic Committee; 72: Mr Wayne Sleep, ballet dancer; 44: Sir Kenneth Stowe, civil servant; 65: Mr Donald Sutherland, actor; 57: Mr Bob Taylor, cricketer; 51: Miss Wynne Thurnham, former principal, Central School of Speech and Drama; 93: Judge Sir David Went-Russell; 71: Mr P.D.V. Wilkes, headmaster, Cheltenham College; 51: Mr Terri Wyatt, former chairman, Cosin Group; 65.

Dinners

College of Occupational Therapists
Lord Ennals, President of the College of Occupational Therapists, was host last night at a dinner held at Loughborough University of Technology. Air Commodore Geoffrey Claridge also spoke. Among those present were Lady Ennals, Baroness Masham of Iion, Sir Mark Carlisle, Professor Heinz Wolff and the President of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists.

Foundation for Science and Technology
Baroness Platt of Writtle presided at a dinner of the Foundation for Science and Technology, held last night at Bushy House, Teddington, after a visit to the National Physical Laboratory. Among others present were Viscountess Long, Lord Beloff, Baroness Hooper, Lady Kennet, Baroness Perry of Southwark, Lord Pery of Walton, Sir Austin Bide, Sir John Mason, Sir Trevor Skeet, MP, Dr Keith Hampson, MP, and Dr Peter Clapham.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will open the British Council Headquarters, Medford Street, Manchester, at 10.10; and Metropolitan, St Peter Square, at 11.15. Later, she will open Hopwood Hall College, Rochdale, at 3.00; and will attend a Garden Party at Alexandra Park, Glendowie, Oldham, at 3.30.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother will visit the Royal School for Deaf Children in Margate at 3.00 to mark its 200th anniversary.

The Prince of Wales, as President of Business in the Community, will attend an Employees in the Community action training day conference at the Allied Dunbar training centre in Warranborough, Wiltshire, at 10.40.

The Princess of Wales, as Patron of the London Symphony Chorus, will attend the first night of the Proms at the Albert Hall at 7.25.

The Duke of Kent, chancellor, will confer degrees at Surrey University at 10.10.

Chartered Surveyors' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Chartered Surveyors' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr Timothy J.L. Roberts; Senior Warden, Mr Anthony Gordon-James; Junior Warden, Sir Brian Hill.

Christening

The daughter of Mr and Mrs Andrew Cory-Wright was christened Emma Mercedes by Father William Hewitt, SJ, on Saturday, July 11, 1992, at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, W1. The godparents are Mr James Orr and Miss Polly Hardman. A reception was held afterwards with the infant's grandmothers, Lady Jane Cory-Wright and Mrs Alfonso Torrens de la Prats, receiving the guests.

Institute of Biology

The following have been elected to the Institute of Biology: President, Mr M.L. Beck; Dr D.R. Chambers; Professor P. Curtis; Professor G.R. Roberts; Dr M.G. Foster; Mr R.E. Shutes; Professor P. Triffitt.



Fleur Wylie, five-year-old daughter of the chairman of the St Mungo Community Trust, turns tail after chatting to the Princess of Wales who opened a hostel for Aids sufferers run by the trust in west London yesterday

Archaeology

China's classy jade

BY NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

NEW evidence on the origins of Chinese jade carving suggests that it began more than 7,000 years ago in Manchuria, far from the heartland of later civilisations in the Yangtze and Yellow River basins. Early craftsmen were able to tell true jade from similar minerals, however, and different grades of stone were apparently reserved for those at the upper levels of society.

The earliest use of true jade, in China technically a tremolite-actinolite nephrite, has been traced to the site of Chahai, near Fuxin in Liaoning. This province, north-east of Peking, was the home of the Manchuria in historic times, and lay outside the Great Wall which bounded the Middle Kingdom.

The Chahai site dates to the sixth millennium BC, the beginning of settled village life and farming in northern China. The eight jades found during excavations there are "the earliest examples of jade artifacts in the entire world", according to Guang Wen and Zhichun Jing.

Reporting on the analysis of more than 260 jades dating to 2000 BC or earlier, they note that all eight of those from Chahai were of true nephrite jade, while many samples from later sites proved to be lower-grade "hemijades", or even "pseudojades", minerals which only looked similar.

Four of the Chahai jades are of jade silt disc form, two are daggerlike in shape, one is a tubular disc. The appearance of classical Chinese ritual jade forms this early, and this far from the supposed core areas of Shang and Zhou civilisation, is highly significant.

Obvious differences in the appearance and microstructure suggest that raw jade was obtained from more than one source, the investigators say, and "the fact that these pieces were all made from nephrite indicates that the ancient Chahai people might have been able to identify nephrite from other similar minerals". With such knowledge already current before 5000 BC, the initial use of jade may have been even earlier in the Neolithic period.

Further south, at the Hemudu site near Shanghai, most of the small "jades" have proved to be of other minerals, with true jade not coming into use until the fourth millennium BC. The Liangzhu sites in the same region (*The Times*, May 30, 1992) show a conscious discrimination between the use of jade in elite tombs, while small sites such as Heyidi have as much pseudojade as the real thing.

"These people deliberately treated nephrites of various grades and pseudojade in different ways in order to show the difference in social position of tomb occupants", the study concludes.

One important result of the analyses, which show jade being used first in eastern China and then spreading westward, is that the famous Hotan jade in Xinjiang, on the southern edge of the Tarim Basin, is unlikely to have been the original, or even the dominant source of jade.

The iron and magnesium content of the jades suggests that they were formed within magmatic marble beds, so that the Siberian serpentine outcrops around Lake Baikal are also unlikely as an origin. One jade source has recently been identified west of Shanghai, in an area notable for its carved jades in the late Neolithic period, and is a promising lead.

For the moment, however, Chinese archaeologists are only beginning to appreciate the paradox that the middle Yellow River valley, traditionally the core region in which Shang and later complex societies emerged, was almost the last region of eastern China to acquire true jade, the peripheral and allegedly backward peoples of Liaoning and the Yangtze had, on the other hand, been appreciating and utilizing it for several thousand years.

Source: *Geochronology* 3: 251-275.

Pilot's VC may fetch record

By JOHN SHAW

THE Victoria Cross and other medals won by Major Edward "Mick" Mannock, the top-scoring British fighter ace of the first world war, are to be sold by his elderly niece for financial reasons.

Major Mannock, with a record 73 kills to his credit, was also the most decorated pilot of the war with the Military Cross and Bar and DSO and two bars. The unique group has been in the Royal Air Force Museum, Hendon, for almost 20 years.

But his niece has decided to sell them at Sotheby's in Billingshurst, West Sussex on September 19. They are expected to make in the region of £150,000, which would be a new record. The previous highest price was £126,600 at Sotheby's in September 1990.

Major Mannock's niece does not wish to be identified but David Erskine-Hill, a war medal specialist with the firm, said: "She is selling them for financial reasons but I can assure you it is being done with the greatest reluctance."

"I consider this to be the most important VC group ever to appear at auction. The combination of gallantry awards and amazing number of air combat victories make Major Mannock one of the very greatest British pilots."

The VC was awarded posthumously and the *London Gazette* citation of July 18, 1919 described him as "a highly distinguished officer who during the whole of his career in the Royal Air Force was an outstanding example of fearless courage, remarkable skill, devotion to duty and self sacrifice which has never been surpassed."

Major Mannock was a good shot and after being commissioned in the Royal



Major Edward 'Mick' Mannock: Cult status

Flying Corps joined 40 Squadron in April 1917. A ruthless fighter, his first victory came the following month and thereafter his kill tally rose swiftly. He finally commanded 85 Squadron.

The casualty rate among pilots was high and he would give kills away to young men who had just joined the squadron in order to give them confidence," said Mr Erskine-Hill.

"He would take them up in the morning, show them the tactics, shoot one down and probably say with a wink when they landed: 'That's yours but don't tell anybody.' It was all morale boosting and it worked. The pilots loved him for it and it gave him cult status in the squadron."

But it was on one of these operations that he was killed.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.M. Allen and Miss S.N. Kinsey-Jones

The engagement is announced between Derek, younger son of Mr and Mrs J.M. Allen, of Shanghai, formerly of Hong Kong, and Samiya, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs W.E. Kinsey-Jones, of Rowhook, Sussex.

Mr M.F. Collopy and Miss C.A. Merison
The engagement is announced between Matthew, son of Mr and Mrs John Collopy, of Melbourne, Australia, and Clare, daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul Merison, of Chiddingfold, Surrey.

Mr C.D. Elshager and Miss A.M. Waterbury
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Nelson Elshager, of Connecticut, USA, and Marguerite, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Clair Waterbury, of Virginia Water, Surrey.

Mr J.S. Lamburn and Miss K.L. Beardwell
The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Mr and Mrs H.S. Lamburn, of Praze, Cornwall, and Kate, daughter of Dr and Mrs C.G. Beardwell, of Tazal, Derbyshire.

Mr R.H.G. Lee and Miss C.J. Davies
The engagement is announced between Robert, eldest son of Mr and Mrs N.H.W. Lee, of Fribourg, South Yorkshire, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs G.J. Davies, of East Markham, Nottinghamshire.

Mr J. Lewis and Miss G. Holgate
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mrs R. Lewis and the late Mr A. Lewis, of Devon, and Gillian, daughter of Mr and Mrs S. Holgate, of Llanecost, Lancashire.

Mr C.D.S. Porter and Miss S.A. Bennett
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs D.S. Porter, of Chelsea, London, and Sally, daughter of Dr and Mrs G.G. Bennett, of Roskilly, Cheshire.

Marriages

Mr A.N. Lee and Miss E.L. Barker
The marriage took place on Thursday, July 16, in the Chapel of the Order of the British Empire, St Paul's Cathedral, of Mr Adrian Lee, elder son of Brigadier and Mrs Christopher Lee, to Miss Emily Barker, only daughter of Mr Oliver Barker and Mrs David Wigglesworth, The Dean of St Paul's, The Very Rev Eric Evans, officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Alicia Jackson, Georgina Christof, Katie and George Bull, Charles Hamilton and Simon Baring. Mr Simon Lee was best man.

A reception was held at the Skinner's Hall and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Mr A.E.D. Pinner and Miss S.H. Pinner
The marriage took place on Saturday, July 11, 1992, at St Mary's Church, Overton, Hampshire, of Mr Stephen Pinner, of March Court, Hampshire, to Miss Sophie Pinner, of Steventon, Hampshire.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Isaac Watts, hymn writer, Southampton, 1674; Paul Delacroix, painter, Paris, 1797.

DEATHS: William Shakespeare, poet, Edinboro, Warwickshire, 1742; Adam Smith, economist, Edinburgh, 1790; Charlotte Colley, actress of Jean-Paul Marat, executed, Paris, 1793; Charles Grey, 2nd Earl Grey, prime minister 1830-34, Alnwick, Northumberland, 1845; James McNeill Whistler, painter, London, 1903; Álvaro Obregón, president of Mexico, 1920-24, assassinated, Mexico City, 1928; George William Russell (AE), writer, Bournemouth, 1935; Draza Mihailovic, leader of the Yugoslav Chetniks, executed, Belgrade, 1946; Billie Holiday, jazz singer, New York, 1959.

The Postcard Conference headed by Churchill (later by Adlai Stevenson and Stewarts) opened, 1945, Leopold III King of the Belgians, abdicated and was succeeded by his son, Baudouin, 1951.

Latest wills

Mr John Hanbury Angus Sparrow, of Ilfracombe, Devon, died on July 16, 1992, at his home, 11, 118, 137 net. He left his property to St John's College, Cambridge, his works by James Giles to Aberdeen Museum and Art Gallery, his works by William Elton to York City Art Gallery, his landscape by Derwent Lees to Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery and his painting by Boudin and other pictures to the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

He left a number of bequests and half the residue of the estate to personal legacies; his published and unpublished works and a number of the residue in All Souls Library; other manuscripts and a twelfth of the residue to the Bodleian Library; and a twelfth each to New College, Oxford, and Winchester College, Hampshire, for the school library.

Mr John James Davy of Hammersmith, west London, left estate valued at £1,019,625 net.

Luncheon

Sternberg Centre for Judaism, London
Sir Simon and Lady Sternberg were hosts at a luncheon held on Tuesday at the Sternberg Centre for Judaism in honour of Mr Ira Lymann, Vice President of the International Council of Christians and Jews and President of the National Council of Christians and Jews (USA).

The Tablet
The Trustees and Directors of The Tablet entertained Mr John Wilkins at luncheon at the Garrick Club yesterday, to mark the tenth anniversary of his assuming the editorship of The Tablet.

Lord Weatherill

The life barony conferred on Mr Bernard Weatherill has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Weatherill, of North East Croydon in the London Borough of Croydon.

Reception

Prime Minister
The Prime Minister was host at a reception held last night at 10 Downing Street in honour of leading scientists.

Telephone 071 481 4000

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Telefax 071 782 7827

Let us put you at ease by attending to any household repairs, and to the prayers of your servants who delight to serve your name.
Mehmet 1:11 REG

BIRTHS

CRAIG - On July 7th, in Lucerne, Switzerland, to Ian and Virginia, a son, Christopher James, a brother for Alexander.

FETHERSTONHAUGH - On July 15th, to Alexa (nee Lees) and Guy, a daughter, Rose.

HEWITT - On July 7th, to Philippa (nee Bann) and Robert, a daughter, Charlotte Mary, a sister for George and Alice.

KIT - On July 12th, to Donna (nee Grundy) and Karl, a daughter, Kendal India, a sister for Alex.

LUCE - On July 11th, to Theresa and H. ry, a daughter, Sophie Helen, a sister for Polly Tara.

MacLAREN - On July 9th, to Jennie (nee Came) and Stewart, a son, Finlay George Stewart, a brother for Christian.

MITANI - On July 16th, at the Humana Hospital, Weybridge, to Kyoko and Michael, a son, Hiroaki.

NEILL - On July 6th, 1992, at St George's Hospital, to Joanna (nee Bell) and Andrew, a daughter, Virginia Elizabeth, a sister for Alexandra.

SHELDON - On July 15th, to Ian (nee Buxton) and Tim, a daughter, Louise Margaret, a sister for William and Minnie.

VEITCH - On July 15th, to Rosemary (nee Fair) and Graham, a daughter, a sister for Caroline and Thomas.

DEATHS

ANSELL - On July 16th 1992, peacefully, 89 years, of Putborough, Reigate, Mass at St Andrew's Church, Billingham, at 11.30 am on Wednesday July 22nd. A devoted and devoted husband and father. Burial at St Andrew's Church at 11.30 am. R.I.P. No flowers. C/o St Andrew's Church.

BETHUNE - On July 16th 1992, peacefully in the Radcliffe Infirmary, aged 85. Lila, widow of Charles, much loved mother of Lawrence and Hugh. Funeral on July 20th at St Lucy's, Medstead, at 11 am. Family flowers only but to her memory donations to D.G.A.A. or Kemp & Stevens, 93 High St, Alton, Hants. GU34 1LG.

CAMERON - On July 16th, suddenly at home, Wingham, Kenneth (nee Cameron), aged 84, Major RE, retired, beloved husband of Margaret, father of the late Bridget Proctor, Alan and Neil and much loved grandfather. Funeral to be arranged by H. Bishop & Son, Church St, 0460-63094. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to St Andrew's Church c/o The Vicarage, Thorncombe, TA20 8PP.

CARTLEDGE - On July 16th, peacefully, at St Albans City Hospital, after a brief illness, Horace Avron Cartledge, aged 82, M.A., a devoted and devoted husband and father. Burial at St Albans Abbey on Thursday July 22nd at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations to the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund or the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, 41 Long Street, Devizes, Wilt. SN10 1NS.

ELLES - On July 15th 1992, peacefully at home, Sutton. Very aged 82, after a long illness. Air Commodore Harry Edles CB CBE. Much loved by his wife Pamela and his children Janet, and his children Thomas, Harriet and Richard. Please no flowers. Donations if wished to the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund or the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, 41 Long Street, Devizes, Wilt. SN10 1NS.

HAILE - On July 11th, Hugh Palmer Haile MBE, peacefully at home in Cyprus. Loving husband, father and grandfather.

JONES - On July 15th at home surrounded by his family, Humphrey aged 56, after a brief but strong fight against cancer. Devoted husband of Jenny, devoted father of Humphrey, Eleanor and Miranda and beloved son of Mrs There will be a family funeral service on July 22nd followed by a Memorial Service in the church. Flowers may be sent to Francis Chappell, 39 Woodview Road, Greenwich.

PERKINS - On July 15th, peacefully at home, 100 years, after a long illness. Loving husband of Mary, devoted father of John and Mary. Burial at St Andrew's Church, Billingham, at 11.30 am. R.I.P. No flowers. C/o St Andrew's Church.

PRICE-JONES - On July 9th 1992, at Brynleof Nursing Home, Mary, devoted wife of the late David of Man, deceased. Beloved mother of Douglas, Christine and Robert. Funeral at St John's Church, Llanfair, on Friday July 24th at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the Cancer Research Campaign, c/o A & W Goddard, tel: 02822 616431.

ROTH - On July 15th, peacefully at home, Anthony Roth, aged 84, after a long illness. Loving husband of Mary, devoted father of John and Mary. Burial at St Andrew's Church, Billingham, at 11.30 am. R.I.P. No flowers. C/o St Andrew's Church.

DEATHS

GANTER - On July 13th, peacefully at Primley Park Hospital, Grace Maude (nee Todd), aged 84, of Church Crookham, Fleet. Beloved wife of the late Douglas Ganter, a devoted and devoted husband and father. Burial at St John's Church, Llanfair, on Friday July 24th at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the Cancer Research Campaign, c/o A & W Goddard, tel: 02822 616431.

GREGORY - On July 15th 1992, Malcolm Gregory O.B.E., F.I.C.E., F.R.T.P.I., aged 84 years, wife of the late Mrs. Margaret Davies, a devoted and devoted husband and father. Burial at St John's Church, Llanfair, on Friday July 24th at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the Cancer Research Campaign, c/o A & W Goddard, tel: 02822 616431.

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OBITUARIES

SIR PERCIVAL GRIFFITHS

Percival Griffiths, KBE, IE, former official in the Indian Civil Service and businessman, died on July 14 aged 93. He was born on January 15, 1899.

LEADER of the non-official European bloc in the legislative Assembly in Delhi, Percival Griffiths, was hailed by successive viceroys on the interests and opinions of the British commercial community, not least by Lord Mountbatten in negotiations that preceded the transfer of power. He spent 15 years in the Indian Civil Service in Bengal before entering business in India. After independence he gained a still wider reputation as an astute interpreter of events in the subcontinent and an expert on economic relations between the country and the successor



states of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. He also became a prolific and versatile author.

Percival Joseph Griffiths was the son of J. T. Griffiths, Ashford, Middlesex, and was educated at the Central Boarding School, then at St. Peter's, Cambridge, and Oxford University. He was appointed to the Indian Civil Service in 1922 and posted to Bengal. Engaged in district work during a period of political turbulence and terrorist outrages, he volunteered to serve as collector in a district in which his three predecessors in the post had been assassinated. In 1929 he was appointed manager of the estates of the Nawab of Dacca, the greatest zemindari in Bengal.

"PJ", as he was generally known, retired from the ICS in 1937 to enter business life in Calcutta. He was promptly elected to the Central Legislative Assembly in which, in 1946, he became leader of the European group, his speeches adding much to the animation of debates. In the

second world war he again served the government of India as central organiser of the National War Front and as publicity adviser. His advice to government in the period before independence culminated in an interview with Lord Mountbatten shortly before the viceroy determined on his plan for the transfer of power.

Back in England, Griffiths became adviser to the India Tea Association and to the newly-formed India, Pakistan and Burma Association, comprising British firms trading in the sub-continent, of which he was later elected president. On its behalf, or on that of the several companies of which he was a director, he made frequent tours, not only to India and Pakistan but also to Burma, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. Quick, receptive and frank in discussion, he was a successful negotiator whose reports and opinions were treated with great respect by his associates and the trading community.

He was an effective lecturer and contributor to the press and was the author of a long sequence of books. His *British India*, published in 1947, was illuminated by his own experiences, including casual acquaintances in train or bus; *The British Impact on India* (1952) expressed his conviction that British rule had helped to inculcate the qualities needed to sustain national democratic independence; *The Changing Face of Communism* (1961) and *Empire to Commonwealth* illustrated the range of his political interests. He later took to industrial history, writing the stories of the Indian tea industry, the Inchcape Group and the Joint Steamer Companies; his history of the English chartered companies, *A Licence to Trade*, was especially praised, as was his history of the Indian Police. His final book, which conveys his affection for the people of the sub-continent was *Vignettes of India* (1986).

He was made a Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire in 1943, knighted in 1947 and appointed KBE in 1968. Prepossessing, neither in stature nor in countenance, "PJ" earned the affection of his friends and the admiration of his colleagues. In 1924 he married Kathleen Mary, daughter of T. R. Wilkes of Kettering, by whom he had two sons (one deceased). She died in 1979, and in 1985 he married Marie, widow of Sir Herbert Shirley Smith.

ASHBY HARPER

Ashby Harper, who became the oldest man to swim the English Channel in 1982 at the age of 65, died in Greenwich, Connecticut, on July 11, aged 75.

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico, where Ashby Harper chose to live, is one of the driest spots in the United States. It was an odd place to find a man who seemed to spend his entire life looking for large bodies of water to conquer.

The older he got, the further Harper swam. In 1988, at the age of 71, he capped his Channel performance by swimming all the way round the island of Manhattan, a distance of 29 miles. He also

swam 26 miles across California's Santa Barbara Channel, and braved the 21 miles of Lake Tahoe.

Harper was a teacher by profession. He had graduated from Princeton University, where he played baseball and football as well as swimming competitively.

In the 1940s he went to South America as director of schools in Ecuador and Peru. He joined the Peace Corps in 1962 and became the first director in Guatemala.

He died as he lived, succumbing to an apparent blood clot only hours after taking part in a one-mile swimming race.

He is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.

ANTONIO MARCEGLIA



Antonio Marcegaglia, the Italian naval officer who in 1941 took his "human torpedo" into the harbour of Alexandria and put out of action the British battleship HMS Queen Elizabeth, died in Venice on July 14 aged 76. He was born on July 28, 1915.

THE raid on Alexandria, carried out during the night between December 18 and 19, 1941, was the most brilliant operation credited to the Italian Navy during the second world war. The attack, with three human torpedoes each mounted by two men with breathing apparatus, succeeded in putting out of action the battleships *Valiant* and *Queen Elizabeth*. It was a supremely typical of a service which was as ingenious, daring and courageous in small scale actions involving a few individual officers, as it was mismanaged and self-defeating in fleet actions controlled directly by the *Supermarina* in Rome.

The three human torpedoes were dropped by the submarine *Scire* just outside the port of Alexandria, the eastern base of the Royal Navy's Mediterranean fleet. Under water and in darkness, surfacing occasionally to check their course, the three "maiale" (for "pig"), as the Italians called them, each moved towards its target.

One, commanded by Luigi Durand de La Penne (obituary, January 21), released its 500 pound warhead beneath the hull of the battleship *Valiant*. Lieutenant de La Penne and his navy diver, Emilio Bianchi, were immediately captured by the *Valiant's* crew and put deep inside the ship as an encouragement to reveal exactly where they had placed their charge. But they

kept silent until it exploded at dawn. The battleship was out of action for six and a half months.

The second "maiale" with Lieutenant Vincenzo Martellona and navy diver Mario Marino, failed to find an aircraft carrier in harbour and placed its warhead under an 8,000 ton tanker. They were soon captured after landing on shore.

The "maiale" ridden by Captain Antonio Marcegaglia and navy diver Spartaco Schergat was the most successful of the three. They found the *Queen Elizabeth*, dropped their charge underneath and beached their "maiale" hours before the warhead exploded. The 32,000 tonne *Queen Elizabeth*, Admiral Andrew Cunningham's flagship, was seriously damaged and put out of action for a year and a half.

The crippling of the two British capital ships influenced the balance of sea power in the Eastern Mediterranean, although the Italians failed to take advantage of the situation.

But for Marcegaglia and Schergat events after the attack were almost as exciting as the attack itself. Having abandoned their "maiale" on an isolated beach they took off their diving suits and rolled up the sleeves of the uniforms they were wearing underneath to hide the Italian insignia. Taking advantage of the fact that their uniforms were very similar to those of the French navy, they wandered around Alexandria harbour for some time until they found the railway station.

Their plan was to reach Rashid, 40 miles east along the coast, where it had been agreed that an Italian subma-

rine would surface for three successive nights to take them off. They tried to pay for their train tickets with British pound notes with which they had been supplied. But they discovered that their intelligence service had blundered and that pounds sterling were not legal tender in Egypt. They changed their money with a street corner moneychanger and took the train to Rashid where they were stopped by an Egyptian patrol that arrested them and turned them over to the British.

After the attack Admiral Cunningham said: "One cannot help but admire the sangfroid of these Italians." Winston Churchill was also impressed and ordered the Royal Navy to work along similar lines. The "charlots", the British version of the "maiale", were duly developed but failed in an attempt to attack the German battleship *Tirpitz* in a Norwegian fjord.

Antonio Marcegaglia was born in Istria, today part of Yugoslavia. He grew up in Trieste and after three years in the Naval Academy and a two-year naval engineering course at Genoa University was commissioned as an officer in the Naval Engineers. After the war Marcegaglia left the navy and worked for a time on salvage operations in the Mediterranean. In 1954 he took a job at the Fincantieri shipyards in Venice of which he became first managing director and then president before he retired. It is to his credit that the Venice shipyard is the only one of those originally controlled by the state-run Fincantieri which has been successfully privatised recently.

PROFESSOR KENNETH BAKER



Samuel John Kenneth Baker, OBE, professor of geography at Makerere University, Uganda, from 1949 to 1967, and subsequently emeritus professor, died in Bradford on June 9 aged 85. He was born in Keighley on May 8, 1907.

IN THE 18 years in which he was professor of geography at Makerere University in Kampala, Kenneth Baker built up the department into one of the leading such units in tropical Africa. He was always particularly concerned with teaching and with the development of close personal contacts with his students, often continued long after graduation, and with the schools of Uganda.

He was one of the founders of the Uganda Geographical Association and instituted its journal, *The East African Geographical Review*, and as early as 1955 the association hosted a symposium on "Natural Resources" under the auspices of the International Geographical Union.

Kenneth Baker's parents had moved to Bradford in 1911 and he was educated there before going to Belle Vue Boys' School in October, 1924 to read geography at the University of Liverpool. That happy choice shaped both his academic and personal development. He found in his professor, P.M. Roxby, an inspiring teacher who, like Baker, was motivated both by a strongly humanist approach to geography and a deep commitment to his fel-

low men. Graduating with first-class honours at the age of only 20, Baker had already begun his studies of Africa with a dissertation on Tanganyika. He was to extend that work through study leave spent in East Africa in 1933 which led to a number of papers on population in Uganda and input into Hailey's definitive *An African Survey* (1938).

These twin foundations of his academic career were thus established early. In the small Liverpool department in which he taught from 1928 to 1946 Baker played a key role in first-year studies in which his qualities as a tutor — both academically and as a personal mentor, not least in the men's residence at Rankin and then Derby Hall — were valued by successive generations of students, especially those from Africa. Although shy and rather diffident — he was not a confident lecturer — Baker's

concern for the individual reflected both a departmental and personal ethos.

Such qualities and a deep concern for, and personal knowledge of, the peoples of East Africa were to stand him in good stead when, in 1947, he went as resident tutor in geography to Makerere College where he found, on arrival, only 300 students and but one academic geographer colleague, V. C. R. Ford, who had been appointed a year earlier.

Baker's early months were dominated by protracted, difficult and frustrating negotiations that culminated in 1949 in the establishment of Makerere University College. Baker valued in particular the special relationship with the University of London that meant so much to so many of the newly-created academic establishments in British colonial Africa at this critical stage in their development. He was appointed to the newly-established chair of geography in 1949 and remained there until his retirement in 1967.

As the years in Makerere passed, Baker became increasingly involved in administration and played a key role in the formation of the federal University of East Africa. He was vice-principal of Makerere between 1965 and 1967 and then stayed on for a further year as adviser on academic administration. Baker's achievements in Makerere were recognised by the appointment of OBE and the award of honorary degrees of Makerere, Liverpool

and Bradford Universities. His love of Uganda — a very beautiful country — and of its people showed itself in his often-expressed intention to remain in the country in retirement, possibly in Mbale. He decided otherwise, however, in the light of the changes in the political climate and the emergence of dictatorship in the country.

These developments led to the sad decline in the standing of Makerere in the community and to the disappearance, at least temporarily, of the high academic standards and values for which Baker and his colleagues in the university had fought for so long and so hard. So, greatly distressed by events and attitudes in the country for which he had such an affection, Baker returned to the country of his birth and from 1968 until his death he shared a house with his sister in Bradford.

Over the next 24 happy and productive years, he threw himself enthusiastically into geographical work, especially as president of the Bradford branch of the Geographical Association, and writing on East Africa (including many entries in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*) and on the history of geography. Above all, he gave himself to the life and work of Bradford Cathedral: as keeper of registers and records; as organiser of its arrangements for visitors; as the historian of a number of aspects of its work; and, not least, in his own witness.

APPRECIATIONS

Felix Markham



MAY I add a few words to your obituary of Felix Markham (July 9)? I met him at Oxford, through Enid Starkie; they had paid a joint visit to Burgundy, to sample the delights of the vineyards and to be appointed *chevaliers du Tastevin*. Each of them treasured the small silver cup, on a ribbon, which proclaimed their new distinction. It was, I think, Felix who decided that such hospitality must be returned; he organized a dinner for his French hosts in New College, at which only Burgundian food and *vins de Bourgogne* were served. It was a gargantuan occasion.

Indeed, I always seem to see Felix across some well-appointed table: genial, epicurean, francophile, discussing history, proclaiming his admiration for Harold Macmillan, enjoying Oxford gossip and Oxford politics.

His book on Oxford — appropriately introduced by Maurice Bowra — must be among the most original works on that familiar subject. It is erudite, elegant, humorous, and patently the

product of a lifetime's affection.

Felix had his unchangeable bachelor habits — he always took a walk after lunch, round the gardens of New College — but he was generous with his friendship and with his time. His sadness was almost palpable when the time came to leave Hertford: the college had manifestly been his life. I prefer to remember him at his Burgundian dinner, or discussing Napoleon in the "dishevelled comfort" — a perfect description — of his study.

Joanna Richardson

Lord Kearton



IN THE full account of his career set out in the obituary of Lord Kearton (July 6) his contribution as Chancellor of the University of Bath was insufficiently recognised. May I add to this?

He was a born university chancellor — able to communicate directly and sympathetically with students and staff alike. He could pass on the wisdom gained from a lifetime of experience in high endeavours in science, technology and public affairs. His knowledge of, and contact with, people who mattered were astonishing. His addresses to the new graduates at degree congregations were always topical; debate in the House of Lords, cut and thrust in select committees, visits of delegations to foreign countries, trenchant advice to ministers and their civil servants, the overriding importance of manufacturing industry to a country's wellbeing — this was the Kearton world and he held it out to the new graduates as

the stage on which they would shortly play their own parts.

The university has lost a most remarkable chancellor and friend. One of his last public university functions was to preside over the Charter Day celebrations to mark the 25th anniversary of the granting of the Royal Charter to the university. He had played a key role in almost one half of those first 25 years.

Professor J. R. Quayle, FRS

Thomas Bergmann

YOUR fascinating obituary of that colourful character Thomas Bergmann (June 19) omits one of the most bizarre episodes in his unusual career.

Back in the Fifties, having found himself a square peg in the round hole of weekly journalism at *Romsey*, Tom turned businessman and bought a restaurant in Southampton. He called it the *Café de Schnitzel*. Here he tried to recapture something of the atmosphere of a pre-war Central European meeting place

for artists and writers. It didn't always work out the way he wanted. There was the time he hired a local student to do a mural depicting his regulars. Miffed at being viciously caricatured, several of them never returned! Neither did a Catholic poet after Tom, during a heated debate, described Christ as "almost as good a philosopher as Spinoza".

Tom — chef, waiter and benevolent Lord of Mischief — invented his own dishes, e.g. a "Quatermass", a Cyclopean mess comprising a bowl of tomato soup with a poached egg dropped into it.

John Edgar Mann

July 17 ON THIS DAY 1936

Two months after this incident George Andrew McMahon was sentenced to a year's hard labour for producing a revolver "with intent to alarm the King". Readers will remember a similar incident in 1981 when blank shots were fired at the Queen after *Trooping the Colour*.

ALARM IN ROYAL PROCESSION

When the King was returning to Buckingham Palace yesterday morning at the head of the six battalions of the Guards to whom he had presented new Colours in Hyde Park, a revolver loaded in four chambers was thrown onto the roadway on Constitution Hill by a man who pushed his way to the front of the crowd. The weapon fell between the King and the following troops and was promptly picked up by a mounted police officer. The man was immediately arrested.

THE KING'S CALM One onlooker tells that at the top of Constitution Hill a man, who had been standing in the crowd to the left of the oncoming procession, suddenly raised his arm and threw a revolver into the roadway, apparently with the intention of hitting the King. Happily, the weapon missed its mark and fell on the roadway a few feet in front of his Majesty's horse.

Other eye-witnesses said variously that the missile struck the flank of the horse, that a man who appeared to be holding a revolver had his hand gripped by a woman and a policeman, and that the weapon fell into the roadway, and that the revolver, before it was thrown, had been levelled at the King. It seems to be agreed that within a matter of seconds a man had been seized by the police and hurried away from the spot. Another policeman jumped from his horse and quickly picked up the

revolver, which he handed to a superior officer.

The King appeared to realize that something exceptional was happening, turned his head in the direction of the spot from which the revolver had been thrown, and spoke either to his security or to Major-General Sergeant-Brooke, who were riding behind him. It is stated that Sir John Aird turned his horse and rode back to the spot where the revolver had fallen, but the procession did not halt and moved on to the Palace.

People 50 yards down the roadway who loudly cheered the passing of the King were apparently without any knowledge of what had happened half a minute earlier.

A staff photographer of *The Times* states that he was taking pictures from the top of the arch at the end of Constitution Hill. He did not see anything thrown, and his attention was first attracted by a full in the cheering. He saw a mounted police officer — who, presumably, had been stationed in front of the crowd — ride forward from the south side of Constitution Hill, dismount and pick up from the ground a black object. At the same time a man was seized by police at the back of the crowd on the north side of the hill. He thought that this man had thrown the black object over the heads of the crowd in front of him. He took a photograph showing the officer in the road examining the object, and also the man under arrest.

There was little visible excitement. The King rode straight on, and it was all over. By the time he had gone 20 yards along the hill it would have been difficult to say that anything unusual had happened. He did not think the people in front of the crowd knew that anything had happened.

During the showing of the news reel at the Empire Theatre the audience sang "God Save the King" to musical accompaniment when the King was seen taking the salute at the close of the morning's ceremony in Hyde Park.

Church news

Clergy appointments

The Rev Canon David Frayne, Vicar, St Mary, Redcliffe w Temple, Bristol and St John the Baptist, Bedminster (Bristol) to be Provost of Blackburn (Blackburn) succeeding the Very Rev Lawrence Jackson.

The Rev Clive Young, Vicar, St Paul w St Mark, Old Ford, and Area Dean of Tower Hamlets to be Archdeacon of Hackney (Hackney) succeeding the Ven Roger Sharpley, and Vicar, the Guild Church of St Andrew, Holborn (London).

The Rev John Alderman, Vicar, Bursledon to be Rector, Didsen (Winchester).

The Rev David Burleigh, non-synodical Minister, Birkenhead Team Parish to be stipendiary Assistant Curate, Birkenhead Team Parish (Cheshire).

The Rev Derek Carrivick, Rector, Chelmsley Wood, and part-time Diocesan Ecumenical Officer (Birmingham) to be Rector, Baxley w Hurley and Wood End and Merevale w Bentley, same diocese.

The Rev Canon Peter Christensen, Rector, St Barnabas and Rural Dean of Wirral South to be full-time Chaplain to Arrow Park Hospital, Wirral (Cheshire). The Rev John Cooper, Rector, Holy Trinity w St Wilfrid's, Bingley to be Vicar, St James, Salsdon (Bradford).

The Rev Graham Crook, Vicar, Nelson, St Bede (Blackburn) to

be whole-time Chaplain to Southend Hospital (Chelmsford).

The Rev Geoffrey Driver, Curate, Walton (Liverpool) to be Curate, Seely (Chichester).

The Rev Reg Harcus, Priest-in-charge, Boleyn (Chichester) has been appointed also an Honorary Canon of St Peter's Cathedral, Koforidua, Ghana.

The Rev Clive Larsen, Assistant Curate, Weaverham to be Assistant Curate, St John, Alveston, St Luke, Dunham-on-the-Hill, and St Paul, Holby (Cheshire).

The Rev Dennis Lloyd, Assistant Curate, Hamworthy (Salisbury) to be Chaplain to the University of East Anglia (Norwich).

The Rev Marion Miggins to be an Honorary Canon of the Cathedral Church of St James, Bury St Edmunds (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).

The Rev Robert North, Team Vicar, Hereford South Wye Team Ministry to be Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Priest-in-charge, St Nicholas, Hereford (Hereford).

The Rev Christine Rhodes, non-synodical Curate, Woolley to be Assistant Hospital Chaplain in the Hereford Hospitals (Hereford).

The Rev Charles Richardson, Rector, Hastings St Clement and All Saints to be also Rural Dean of Hastings (Chichester).

The Rev Jonathan Sewell, Youth Officer, Enfield deanery (London) to be Diocesan Youth Officer (Winchester).

The Rev Mark Strange, Curate, Worcester, St Barnabas w Christchurch to be Vicar, Worcester, St Wulston (Worcester).

The Rev Jill Talbot-Ponsonby, Curate, Leominster Team Ministry to be non-stipendiary minister, Wigmore Abbey parishes (Hereford).

The Rev David Thornley, Vicar, Amberley w North Stoke and Parham, Wiggonholt and Greatnam to be Priest-in-charge, South Basset (Chichester).

The Rev Nick Wetherall, Team Vicar, Leominster (Hereford) to be Vicar, Cuckfield (Chichester).

The Rev David Wiles, Curate, St Stephen, Clapham Park to be Vicar, St Luke, Wimbledon Park (Southwark).

The Rev Anthony Willis, Assistant Curate, St John the Evangelist, Ivybridge (Exeter) to be Assistant Curate, All Saints, Catherington w St James, Clunfield (Southampton).

Resignations and retirements The Rev Canon Donald Carter, Rector, Church and St Mary Magdalen, St Leonard's-on-Sea resigned as Rural Dean of Hastings (Chichester) as from 30 June.

The Rev Hugh Elker, Rector, East w West Harding and Bridgham w Roudham (Norwich) to retire as from 30 October.

The Rev Timothy Fletcher, Rector, Barcombe (Chichester) to retire as from 1 October.

Road blights 'film' village

BY MARCUS BINNEY, ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE picturesque fishing village of Fishguard in Dyfed is rising in anger against Welsh Office proposals to improve the flow of heavy traffic along its narrow streets.

Fishguard does not want crude heart surgery, it needs a proper bypass now, says Pat Molloy, chairman of the newly-formed civic society.

Fishguard has long been a favourite of photographers, calendar publishers and film makers, but though popular with holidaymakers it has escaped unsympathetic tourist development.

Local people take pride that it was here that the last invasion of British soil, mounted in 1971 by a French force recruited from prisons and calling itself the Black Legion, was defeated by the Pembrokeshire Yeomanry.

The timeless charm of simple fishermen's cottages, ranged along a snaking quay side has made Fishguard a

magnet for film personalities from John Houston to Gregory Peck and it has been used as a backdrop for *Moby Dick* and *Under Milk Wood*.

Today Fishguard suffers from increasing numbers of heavy lorries travelling the main coastal route from Haverfordwest to Aberystwyth. "You cannot adapt a horse-and-cart town to juggernauts without destroying it," says Mr Molloy.

Dyfed County Council has also told the Secretary of State for Wales that his piecemeal approach "would contribute nothing to assist trunk road flows and desecrate a most picturesque, unspoiled and unique fishing village. The road works would involve demolition of a listed bridge, a listed pub, and the mutilation of a characteristic Welsh chapel."

Roger Anderson, the district council's director of planning, says: "The best

views of the settlement are from above, looking down, where every detail is conspicuous. A modern road bisecting Lower Town would cause irreparable visual harm."

Sir Wyn Roberts, Minister of State, has rejected calls to provide Fishguard with a full scale bypass costing £5.5 million as opposed to £1 million for re-aligning existing roads. "There are many other sections of trunk road improvements in Wales which would offer a much better cost benefit return and at Fishguard there is no practical alternative route," he says.

The most significant support for the scheme has come from 65 residents most directly affected.

A public enquiry is likely to be held in the autumn. Meanwhile, the district council has commissioned an environmental impact study, something which the Welsh Office has failed to carry out.

Architecture

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

Egypt summit, page 13

Robert Harman, partner with the City law firm Travers Smith Braithwaite who's colleague Alan Keat had charges against him discharged midway through the trial, said: "If the prosecution has focused themselves properly on the issues from the start, it would have been over in weeks." Instead, he said, it had brought in evidence on a wide range of "irrelevant" matters that obscured the one main issue right to the "very end of the trial".



The condition of the skeletons has broadly confirmed contemporary accounts of the killings: the victims were shot or, in the case of the princesses, bayoneted after their jewellery protected them from the bullets. The bodies were taken to the countryside, burned and later doused in

hydrochloric acid before being buried in a secret graveyard over which a flat wooden track was later passed.

It has now been established that the killings were carried out on Lenin's direct orders. The final laying to rest of Russia's last emperor may well coincide with the removal of his Red Square mausoleum of the man who masterminded his overthrow.

MATTHEW PARRIS

**The concise crossword is on
page 9 of Life & Times**

SELDANE.
A major advance in hayfever
treatment.

KEEP FACE WITH IT



SELDANE.
A major advance in hayfever
treatment.

MEET FACE WITH THE NEW

Reactolite
RAPIDE
 **PILKINGTON**

Jobless increase is the smallest for two years

By ROSS TIERMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE number of people out of work in Britain rose by 7,000 during June, the smallest rise for two years. Latest figures also show average earnings also rose by just 6.5 per cent during the year to May, the smallest rise since 1987. The figures combine to suggest that government policies to quell inflation have succeeded in restricting pay increases, and the rise in unemployment may be slowing down.

More than 2.72 million jobless people are now claiming state benefits, the highest number for five years, but the employment department believes the underlying rate of increase in unemployment has fallen below

25,000 a month. In two regions, the East Midlands and the North West, the number of people out of work fell during June. But unemployment in London and the South East remains at a postwar peak, and nationwide, the jobless rate is 9.6 per cent.

Employment department officials said the earnings figure, down 0.5 per cent since April, was inflated by increased overtime working. The underlying rate of increase in manufacturing earnings, they suggested, was 5.5 per cent, just 1.6 per cent above the rise in the retail prices index over the same period.

Ministers hope that the figures are accurate indicators that inflation has been beaten and that recession is at last loosening its grip. Gillian Shepherd, the employment

secretary, said: "Whilst I would not want to place too much weight on one month's statistics, today's figures are encouraging."

She pointed to a 68,000 increase in service sector employment during the first quarter, revealed yesterday, and an increase in the number of vacancies at JobCentres as further encouraging signs.

However, analysis of employment department figures suggests that the scale of increase in unemployment is being masked by a rise in the proportion of part-time jobs.

At the end of the first quarter, the total workforce in Britain had fallen by 774,000, year on year, to 25.6 million. In the space of a single year, almost one full-time job in every 27 had gone. But within the total the number of employees in part-time jobs had

slipped by just 69,773, or 1 per cent, to 6.61 million.

The unemployment rate for males has risen to 12.9 per cent, while for females it was just 5.2 per cent. In the quarter to end-March, the rise in wage costs per unit of manufacturing output slowed to 2.8 per cent over the previous quarter.

The enduring recession has continued to worsen government finances. A fall in government receipts from £15.3 billion in May to £13.9 billion in June helped lift the public sector borrowing requirement to £4.23 billion last month, ahead of market forecasts averaging £3.1 billion, despite privatisation proceeds of £446 million. Departmental spending rose from £17.8 billion in May to £18.1 billion in June. The

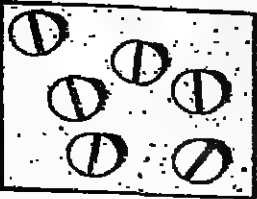
unexpectedly high government deficit in June represented a rebound from the previous month when the PSBR was somewhat smaller than expected at a revised £3.15 billion. Over the first quarter of the financial year the PSBR grew from £7 billion in 1991 to £10.8 billion, net of £1.9 billion privatisation proceeds.

The year-on-year increase in the quarterly PSBR is distorted by changes in the financing of local government, but the underlying weakness of tax revenue has persuaded City economists that the year's borrowing requirement will be even higher than the £25 billion forecast by the Chancellor in his Budget.

Comment, page 23

TODAY IN BUSINESS

TENSE WAIT



As the £3 billion Wellcome share issue enters a crucial stage, advisers remain confident the offer can succeed. Page 23

LOOKING UP

Lloyd's of London says prospects are better than they have been for five years, with sharp rises in home and motor premiums. Page 21

SAFE HOUSE?



National Home Loans, after losses of £85.9 million, hopes to persuade bondholders to allow it some breathing space. Page 20

PARCEL POST

A management buyout is on the cards at Parcelforce, the Post Office parcel delivery service that is to be privatised. Page 21

TOMORROW



John Willan tells Carol Leonard that being managing director of the London Philharmonic Orchestra is a serious business.

Bundesbank defends rate decision

FROM COLIN NARBROUGH IN FRANKFURT

THE Bundesbank yesterday decided on an aggressive tightening of its domestic monetary screw, raising its discount rate by 0.75 of a percentage point to 8.75 per cent. But the German central bank shied away from measures that threatened to heighten tensions within the European exchange-rate mechanism, such as raising the lombard rate, a benchmark for commercial loans.

Helmut Schlesinger, the Bundesbank president, emphasised that the German central bank's 18-man policy-making council had given great consideration to the international consequences before reaching its decision.

He said he thought there would be "no direct consequences" of the Bundesbank move for short-term interest rates in Britain.

From today, the discount rate, one of the Bundesbank's two key lending rates, will be raised by 0.75 of a point to a record 8.75 per cent. The rate,

the cheapest form of bank refinancing in Germany, was last raised on December 20 in tandem with the lombard rate, through which the banks can borrow unlimited amounts at the highest short-term rates. The lombard rate remained unchanged at 9.75 per cent.

The December increases, which came only a week after the Maastricht treaty was agreed, was widely seen as the Bundesbank's last big tightening, given the slowing German economy. It was also seen as a signal to the Bonn government and the trade unions to reduce inflationary pressures.

Dr Schlesinger yesterday said the excessive growth of the money supply still had to be mastered. Despite concern about money supply growth, currently running at an annual 8.7 per cent, the council's brief communiqué said the Bundesbank was sticking to its money supply target of 3.5 to 5.5 per cent this year. The discount rate was intended to "stem

inflation, money supply growth and the strong increase in credit, as well as foster confidence in the maintenance of a stable mark, even under the currently more difficult conditions of a united Germany."

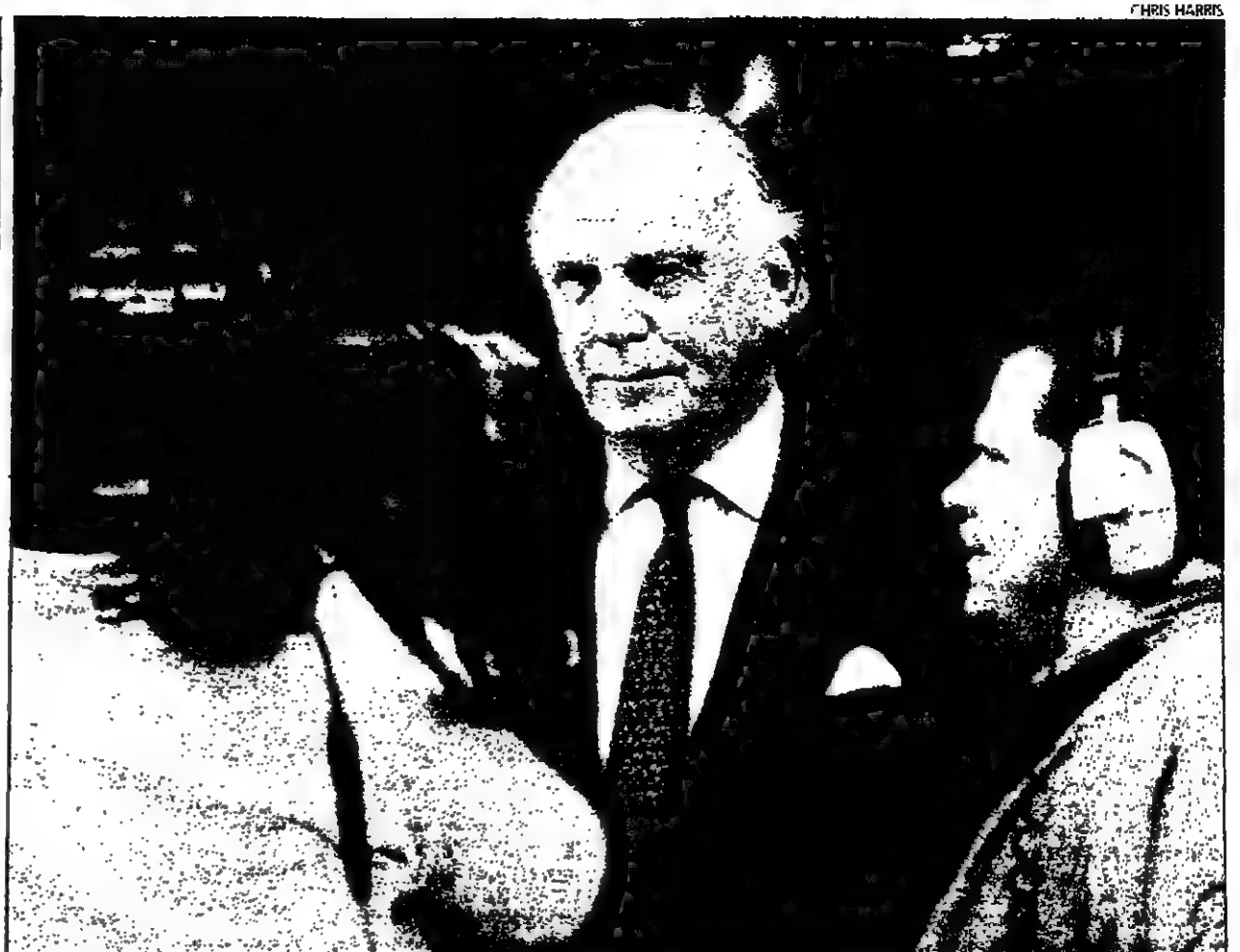
Dr Schlesinger noted that Italy, whose currency has come under severe pressure this week, had reacted promptly to the Bundesbank move and raised its key lending rates in defence of the lira. But he sought to dismiss any suggestion that Germany was keen on a realignment of ERM currencies. "Germany is not a demandeur," he said. Before yesterday's Bundesbank session, there was widespread speculation that the Germans wanted a realignment, but that it was fiercely opposed by other governments, primarily France.

In response to charges that the Bundesbank was guilty of "monetary overkill" that could damage Germany and the rest of Europe, Dr Schlesinger said he could see no such danger. Germany was not growing strongly, but was expanding at the same rate, he said. Jürgen Möllemann, the economics minister who attended the council session, predicted pan-German growth would reach 3 per cent in real terms in 1993.

Dr Schlesinger said he believed the Bundesbank moves represented the "right balance" between domestic and international needs. Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank vice-president, stressed the positive contribution the Bundesbank had made to economic convergence on Europe. Annual inflation in Germany of around 4 per cent has alarmed the Bundesbank and put Germany out of step with inflation rates seen in other major European economies. Even Britain has achieved lower inflation this year.

Herr Tietmeyer said better inflation performance elsewhere in Europe should give other countries some scope to behave independently of Germany. The decision to raise the discount rate only, while likely to disappoint monetary hardliners in Germany, came as a surprise to those market analysts who have long predicted that the next German interest move would be downward.

Peter Riddell, page 14
Comment, page 23



In focus: Sir Robert Clark said yesterday MGN had been hit by the fraud of the century but still needed managing

Relisted Mirror shares expected to halve

By ANGELA MACRAT

SHARES in Mirror Group Newspapers are expected to be relisted on the Stock Exchange today and start trading at between 50p and 60p — less than half the 125p price at which they were suspended last December.

The path to relisting was cleared yesterday after a marathon annual meeting, the first since Robert Maxwell died eight months ago. About 500 shareholders were told that MGN was hit by "the largest fraud perpetrated this century" when £450 million was stolen from the Maxwell pension funds.

Sir Robert Clark, the new chairman, faced calls for the board's resignation from trade shareholders, many of whom were also defrauded Maxwell pensioners and MGN employees. Sir Robert replied: "You may hang who you like, but the group still has to be managed."

Shareholders at the meeting expressed disapproval of the board by voting against three of six resolutions. These concerned the passing of the accounts and the re-election of two directors, Roger Eastoe and Bernard Tominey. But the resolutions were later passed after a poll showed that more than 99 per cent of shareholders were in favour.

While the chairman spoke positively about the trading future of the group, which publishes the Daily Mirror, The People, Sunday Mirror, The Sporting Life, the Daily Record and the Sunday Mail,

he confirmed that dividends would not be paid before 1994 and predicted that "the bulk of the misappropriated assets will prove to be irrecoverable" despite pending litigation.

Sir Robert also ruled out a rights issue to raise more capital for the company, which is working under tight cash controls since being refinanced last month. MGN unveiled losses of almost £390 million last year after providing £421 million for extraordinary losses related to the fraud. Alan Clements, deputy chairman, said the pension

fund deficit stood at £193 million yesterday and the company planned to refund this over the next 14 years. For the next three years, £9 million will be paid in annually.

Sir Robert said the board was conducting an internal investigation into the actions of two senior executives, Alan Stephens, the company secretary and Robert Gregory, the director of human resources. The enquiry relates to their decision to transfer their pensions from an MGN fund to a Maxwell Communications Corporation fund before the

fraud had been exposed. Both are still on the MGN payroll, though Mr Stephens has been suspended from duties during the enquiry.

Sir Robert said the administrator of the Maxwell private companies, who controlled 54 per cent of MGN, would decide who would be the group's new owner. However, John Talbot, the administrator from Arthur Andersen, has said he and MGN's banks were in no rush to sell.

Silent majority, page 2
Letter, page 23

European markets sigh with relief

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

FINANCIAL markets all over Europe were relieved at the decision by the Bundesbank to hold back from a raise in the key lombard rate, which had been widely feared. Sterling gained 1.2 pence to close at DM2.857 in London.

Outside Europe, the rate rise had hardly any effect as the mark remained unchanged against the dollar at DM1.477. In London, sterling gained just over 1 cent against the dollar, closing at \$1.936. But the rise in sterling, especially against the mark, barely compensated for the loss in the value of the British currency over the past few days. Sterling would have been among the hardest hit if the Bundesbank had raised the lombard rate. Sterling remains, however, in last place in the table of European currencies.

The London International Financial Futures Exchange reported an all-time record trade in three-month Euro-mark futures contracts, with 89,000 contracts traded.

The effect of the rise in the discount rate had few effects in most member countries of the European exchange-rate mechanism, except in Italy,

where the Banca d'Italia raised the Italian discount rate by three quarters of one percentage point to 15.25 per cent. The Italian central bank said that the move was designed to assure conditions of stability in the money, government bond and the foreign exchange markets.

Currency analysts and economists welcomed the German decision, but there remains disagreement on the precise implications of the Bundesbank's move. Mark Brett, a currency strategist at BZW, said that the main implication of the rise was a possible delay in the timing of a cut in German interest rates. He said: "The main idea behind the move by the Bundesbank is an attempt to get long [interest] rates up. They could not have raised short-term interest rates, because by that they would have busted the ERM."

Mr Brett said that the markets were still looking in the medium term for a cut in German rates, but the decision to raise the discount rate to 8.75 per cent might cause a change in sentiment.

Stock market, page 22

Director of Noddy changes horses

By ROSS TIERMAN

FOR Dr Walter Eltis, director general of the National Economic Development Office for the past four years, events could scarcely have turned out better. When the office closes for the last time on December 31, he will simply pack up the contents of his desk drawers and send them round to the Department of Trade and Industry.

There, as chief economic adviser to Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, he might find his influence much increased. His appointment, announced yesterday, is seen by "Noddy" insiders as an affirmation by Mr Heseltine that the body had much to recommend it. There has not been a chief economic adviser at the trade department for years. Dr Eltis



Eltis: more influence

will help to get Mr Heseltine's planned new competitiveness division off to a running start. Dr Eltis, who will continue to earn £80,600 a year as a Grade 1a civil servant, said he was delighted at the opportunity, but said for

Noddy's 100 staff, most of whom will be made redundant.

A former economics fellow and tutor at Exeter College, Oxford, he is likely to enjoy increased esteem. Noddy, Britain's only economic forum involving government, industry and trade unions, was treated with disdain by ministers in the Thatcher years.

"Some of the studies we wanted to do at Noddy would have had a price-tag of £500,000," Dr Eltis said. "If the president wanted to do them, perhaps the funds might be available."

Both Mr Heseltine and Dr Eltis believe competitiveness is the fundamental question to be addressed by British industry. According to Dr Eltis, the best of British companies are up with international leaders, but there is a

long "tail" that lags behind.

He has some pet projects up his sleeve, and since he assumes his new role, part-time, with immediate effect, it might not be long before the DTI's competitiveness unit commissions its first studies. Under-employed academics and consultants might like to ponder:

1) How can Britain's engineering industry best practice worldwide?

2) Why does the textiles industry not make better use of the country's design talent?

3) How can Britain avoid losing its pole position in biotechnology when the focus shifts from the laboratory to the factory?

Doubtless Mr Heseltine, whose considerable ambition now embraces the herculean task of revitalising British industry, will add to the list.

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NHL looks for room to breathe

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

NATIONAL Home Loans, the stricken mortgage lender, has crashed to a loss of £85.9 million in the half-year to June 30 after announcing massive bad debts and reorganisation costs.

The company is struggling for survival and is being supported by its bankers, who last month agreed to extend its main £540 million loan until 1995. NHL is also trying to persuade the holders of its £160 million bonds to allow it some breathing space.

Jonathan Perry, the new chairman, said he was confident that he would pull the group through. "Even in this rough market, we are begin-

ning to reduce arrears," he said. "It is tough but the market will get better and then I hope to persuade a partner to join us."

NHL was first hit with liquidity and had debt problems last summer. Since then, it has axed a fifth of its staff and reduced its assets by 30 per cent, to £1.7 billion. It has also agreed to wind down National Mortgage Bank (NMB), its consumer and business lending subsidiary, and surrender its banking licence. The latest losses have cut the group's capital by almost two-thirds to £75.3 million, leaving it little room for further provisions without becoming insolvent.

The figures released yesterday showed income in the half year down 57 per cent, owing to a rise in the cost of borrowing and a fall in commission income. The main damage was done, however, by bad debt provisions of £79.4 million, up by £63.1 million. Most of the provisions came from NMB, which was hit by a flood of defaults in consumer and business loans, costing the group £52 million. Mr Perry said he did not expect further losses.

The other losses were caused by the group's core mortgage business. NHL has provided £20 million against interest on mortgages in arrears, and the rest against repossessions. NHL still manages 62,000 loans. Of these, 7,500 are more than three months in arrears, while the company has repossessed 1,800 homes and is selling off 250 a month. Elsewhere, the group suffered a £19 million fall in interest income owing to the rise in the cost of its bank borrowing.

NHL's banks have been granted potentially lucrative success fees if NHL survives. NHL's shares are trading at 2.25p and analysts say they are still expensive.

Tempos, page 22

Shares in Chequers suspended

SHARES in Chequers Group, the pub and hotel refurbisher formerly known as Dean & Bowes Group, were suspended at 4p yesterday "pending clarification of its financial position" as the company started legal proceedings against the former chairman and chief executive (Martin Waller writes).

Chequers yesterday said it had issued writs against Stephen Dean, one of the group's founders. They allege that a payment of £200,000 gross taken as severance pay after his resignation in February should have been put to shareholders, and that Mr Dean failed to complete a £300,000 acquisition.

Mr Dean denied the claim that the pay-off should have gone through a shareholders' meeting, saying that it was approved by the board. He said he resigned the contract to buy a business as provided for in the contract of sale after material facts became known about its finances before completion.



Growing appetite: Chris Ivory sees more growth despite poor market signs

Dalepak beefs up profits and sales

By Colin Campbell

DALEPAK Foods, the North Yorkshire frozen foods producer, increased profits in the year ended April 25, but says the market place shows no signs of recovery.

Pre-tax profits were £3.93 million (£3.02 million on turnover of £40.6 million (£40.7 million)). Sales increased 8 per cent, adjusted for discontinued businesses.

Chris Ivory, chief executive, said yesterday that the group had been involved in prelimi-

nary takeover talks with unnamed parties earlier this year after Jonathan Ropner, the founder chairman, said he wanted to retire. The talks came to nothing and later Mr Ropner and two other significant shareholders sold 1.5 million shares equivalent to 13 per cent of the company, to institutional shareholders. The parties or their families own 25 per cent of the group. Vegetable products sales rose 14 per cent to £17.4

million, meat products held at £15.8 million. Ready meals, at £2.8 million, and Fawcett Foods, at £3.5 million, had a record year. Gearing was 23 per cent, compared with 38 per cent last year. Capital expenditure was £3.5 million (£1.7 million) and was expected to be £4 million this year, Mr Ivory said.

Dalepak is confident of further progress this year. The final dividend is 4.5p (3.8p) a share, making 6p (5p). The shares rose 10p to 33.8p.

Ford curbs production of Escort as sales dip

By a Correspondent

FORD is to cut production of its top-selling vehicle for a month because of the depression in UK sales, it was announced yesterday.

The night shift at the Halewood plant on Merseyside will be axed for four weeks after the summer shutdown, losing production of around 500 cars a day.

The top-selling Escort and the Orion models are produced at Halewood, Merseyside, which closes for three weeks on July 24 for its annual summer shutdown.

When the 8,000 workers return on August 17 only the day shift will produce cars for a period of a month.

Two-shift operation will resume on a four-day week, instead of five days, for a further two weeks before production returns to normal.

Ford said no more than 2,000 workers will be laid off at any one time, and all will receive normal pay.

The move came as a direct response to the continuing depression in the British passenger car market, the company said.

Ford added: "The anticipated recovery in car sales in the second half of the year now looks unlikely to lift the market much above the 1991 level of 1.59 million cars."

While Escort remains the UK's best-selling car, the absence of growth in the overall market has made production cutbacks inevitable.

"Although Halewood has been successfully operating an export programme since the beginning of the year, demand from continental markets has not increased sufficiently to offset the continuing slump in UK sales," a Ford spokesman said.

Jimmy Airlie, chief Ford negotiator for the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union said: "Car sales are a barometer of the state of the economy and Ford workers are feeling the cold wind of recession."

The announcement proves that the government's claim of an improving economy is false.

Royal Ordnance joins forces with Alvis

ALVIS and Royal Ordnance have announced that they are joining forces to bid for the £2 billion-plus contract for the Army's new family of armoured vehicles. The vehicles will replace the aging Scorpion and Fox, which played vital roles during the Gulf war. Two versions of the new Tracer vehicle are planned — the scout will be used for armoured reconnaissance, while the utility version will have a wide range of roles such as ambulance, command, and repair and recovery.

Alvis, of Coventry, has provided the Army with its armoured reconnaissance vehicles for the past 35 years, while RO, a subsidiary of British Aerospace, has wide experience in weapon systems, engineering and specialised materials. Initial study contracts will be placed next year.

Racal Radar Defence Systems has won a £30 million contract to supply its Orange Reaper electronic support measures system for the Royal Navy's new Merlin helicopter.

Reed sees late upturn

SHAREHOLDERS in Reed International, the publishing group, will have to wait until the second half of the financial year, ending in March, to see an upturn in profits. Peter Davis, the chairman, told the annual meeting that the trend in recent years for more profitable winter months would be exacerbated by recent acquisitions. He said: "Our internal budgets have assumed a similar level of profit in the first half with the expectation of an increase occurring in the second half." He said Reed was in a strong position and interest payments were covered nearly seven times by profits. There had been some improvement in American trading conditions but little or no pick-up in the UK.

Ranger Oil expands

RANGER OIL, which is based in Alberta and has extensive interests in the North Sea, has agreed with Mutual Life Assurance of Canada to buy the oil and gas interests of MLC Oil and Gas for C\$68.3 million (£29.7 million). The acquisition will increase Ranger's Canadian reserves by 85 per cent for oil and natural gas liquids and 33 per cent for natural gas, adding C\$14 million to annual funds generated in Canada. Ranger's Canadian production will rise to 4,900 barrels of oil a day and 84 million cu ft of gas a day. The acquisition also includes exploratory land.

British Ports dips 24p

SHARES in Associated British Ports Holdings dipped 24p to 322p after Sir Keith Stuart, the chairman, said that the company expected to write down its property portfolio by about £10 million in September, when publishing its interim results, to about £117 million. The warning accompanied news that ABPH's Grosvenor Square Properties Group subsidiary had let the whole of its 70,000 sq ft Greenwood House office development at Bracknell, Berkshire, to Novell (UK), part of the Utah-based software company, Novell Inc.

Quality seeks listing

QUALITY Care Homes, the North East nursing care group founded by Duncan and Gail Barnasaghe, the husband and wife team, confirmed it is raising £4 million of new money and seeking a full listing. The 3.6 million shares offered, representing 27.2 per cent of the enlarged equity, were placed at 130p, indicating a 12.6 earnings multiple on forecast profits of £1.75 million for the year ending next October. The prospective dividend yield is 3.9 per cent. At the placing price, QCH is valued at £18 million.

Brasway profits double

BRASWAY, the West Midlands engineer, doubled pre-tax profits to £1.25 million (£13,000) in the year to May 2. Gains were boosted by increased operating profits and lower interest costs. Earnings per share were 1.15p (0.53p). A final dividend of 0.34p (0.27p) a share makes 0.58p (0.51p) for the year. Reg Swaby, chairman, said cost reduction programmes were taking effect at the company which has been severely affected by the recession. Brasway reported pre-tax profits of £2.71 million in 1989.

Cray moves to suspend

CRAY Electronics, the high technology group chaired by Sir Peter Michael, the former UEL head, has requested the suspension of its shares at 75p ahead of today's full-year figures and a probable £50 million acquisition. Cray Electronics is expected to announce the purchase of the former Dowdy information technology business, acquired along with the rest of Dowdy by TI Group after a bid battle earlier this year.

Druck Holdings loses steam in second half

By Rodney Hobson

DRUCK Holdings, the maker of electronic pressure measuring devices, ran out of steam in the second half of its financial year to March. Although annual pre-tax profits rose to £4.7 million from £4.4 million previously, the improvement had already been achieved at the interim stage. The shares fell 35p to 960p. The final dividend of 6p makes 9.4p, up 7p per cent. John Salmon, the chairman, said: "After a good first half, orders in the second six months slowed down and our forward order book shows a slight decrease. The US, Germany and Scandinavia continued to make progress although the European recession marginally affected order levels from France, Italy and The Netherlands."

Druck intends to concentrate on Asian markets after a strong showing in China, Singapore and Taiwan. The Gulf states and Australia also fared well and exports now account for 68 per cent of turnover. Mr Salmon said: "Although the current year has started relatively slowly due to the uncertain economic scene worldwide, the longer term looks assured. I am confident that with our new products, new applications and new markets, we will continue to make positive progress in the future."

Appeal Court to rule on BCCI objections

By a Correspondent

THE Court of Appeal will give judgment today on an attempt by a group of creditors of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International to renew objections to the 30p-in-the-£1 settlement deal sanctioned by the High Court last month.

The creditors, led by Dr Adil Elias, chairman of the BCCI Depositors' Protection Association, challenged the decision of Vice-Chancellor Sir Donald Nicholls to approve proposals negotiated by Touche Ross, the bank's UK liquidators, with the Abu Dhabi government, BCCI's majority shareholder.

The proposals, which offer a return of between 30p and 40p in the £1 and involve the injection of £830 million by Abu Dhabi, have been opposed by creditors as inadequate. Despite a 7-1 vote for rejection by the BCCI's creditors committee and calls for further negotiations with Abu Dhabi, the court would give its decision at 2pm today.

Dr Elias, who says he is a creditor for £1 million, is supported in the appeal by The Trustees of Film and Photo Design Pension Fund, Faisal Islamic Bank of Egypt and nine creditors based in Jordan.

Managers of the Bank of Credit and Commerce Hong Kong, under liquidation since it was closed down a year ago, disclosed a scheme that could repay 85 per cent of its creditors in full.

If the proposals are approved all small creditors, mostly depositors owed HK\$100,000 (£5,750) or less, would have priority to be repaid in full. Large depositors and the government welcomed the move. Small depositors were still angry. They plan to petition Chris Patten, Hong Kong's governor.



Patten: faces petition

Takeover panel takes softer approach

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

THE takeover panel is to amend its code of practice for City takeovers to allow more flexibility when there is a delay in investigations by the competition authorities.

The panel has already become more flexible in allowing extensions to its fixed-bid timetable, against the wishes of target companies, where the Office of Fair Trading takes longer than expected to decide whether to recommend a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Bids automatically lapse if they are referred. The proposed change could also accommodate unknown effects of vetting of big international bids by the European

Commission. In its annual report for the year to end-March, giving detailed accounts for the first time, the panel reveals that it made an unexpectedly large profit of £2.3 million. Its income nearly trebled over the year to £6.4 million, thanks to fee increases on contract notes and takeover documents, levied to counter the previous year's £1.5 million deficit. Costs, by contrast, were cut by 10 per cent. Frances Heston, who took over as director general in the spring, reports that charges will be monitored to keep income broadly in line with spending.

Takeover activity remained subdued. In 1991-2, 139 formal takeover offers were made, up from 130. Two thirds were agreed by the target company's board in advance and only 22 failed,

including those subject to competing offers.

Mrs Heston reports that the panel has agreed new private arrangements to monitor dealings in shares of companies involved in takeover bids. Stock exchange market-makers have agreed to disclose their book holdings in connected companies at the start of an offer period. Under a separate agreement with the Money Brokers' Association, details of stock lending transactions will also be available to the panel's market surveillance unit. In neither case will the information be published.

The panel says it does not expect proposals for a European Community takeover directive to receive a high priority under Britain's EC presidency.

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Lloyd's looks forward to better times

BY JON ASHWORTH

PROSPECTS at Lloyd's of London are better than they have been for five years, because of rising premiums and a more selective approach to business. But the professionals who work in the insurance market expect a long battle to attract new names.

Sharp increases in home and motor premiums point to a general hardening of UK insurance rates. The cost of some home policies has increased by half in the past eight months. Motor premiums have risen by an average of 35 per cent this year.

The latest quarterly survey of trends in the Lloyd's market shows that increases in premium income and rates are likely to continue over the next three months. Nearly 80 per cent of a sample of key underwriters

reported hardening rates, and 70 per cent noted rises in premium income.

Stephen Merrett, chairman of the Lloyd's Underwriters Association, said in a briefing on prospects that a more selective approach by underwriters would help to restore confidence in Lloyd's.

Mainline syndicates were recording significantly higher profits for the 1992 account than they had done for several years and an important redistribution of business was taking place. Underwriters who previously had declined business owing to unattractive terms and conditions were taking a new look at the price and range of business improved. There are signs that some types of business are returning to Lloyd's.

It is unlikely that Lloyd's names will again be exposed to losses on the scale of those triggered by disasters such as Hurricane Hugo and Piper Alpha. The exposure of Lloyd's to catastrophe claims has been significantly reduced, limiting the risk of a repeat of the disastrous losses of 1988 and 1989. Customers are taking out less cover and there is a smaller redistribution of claims within Lloyd's.

George Lloyd-Roberts, chairman of the Lloyd's Underwriters Non-Marine Association, said the number of syndicates would continue to decline as managing agents turned to the best performers. The number of syndicates has fallen from 400 to 275 since 1990.

Mr Lloyd-Roberts said underwriters were experiencing far more choice of business and were freer to set favourable terms and conditions. "Those people still around are seeing more business. We are seeing the best market conditions in four or five years."

Andrew Duguid, head of market services at Lloyd's, said 6,000 names had increased their underwriting exposure for the forthcoming year. Some names who had resigned had changed their minds, but it would take time to coax large numbers of new members into the market.



Prospect of relief: David Coleridge, chairman, has presided over horrendous losses for names, but insurance rates are hardening

Great Universal delivers increase

By MICHAEL TATE
CITY EDITOR

GREAT Universal Stores, the group ranging from Kays, Marshall Ward and John England, the mail order companies, to Burberrys and Scotch House, the retailers, raised pre-tax profits from £438.6 million to £459.2 million in the year to end-March.

Property disposal profits were virtually unchanged at £12.1 million. Shareholders will receive a 27.25p final dividend, giving a total of 40p a share for the year (37.5p). Earnings per share, ignoring £5.6 million of exceptional profits, are 122.5p (110.3p).

Lord Wolfson, the chairman, said there were signs of improvement in the early months of the new financial year, but predicted that it would take "some time for a sound and sustainable recovery to take effect". Profits for the first two months were slightly ahead of the comparable period last year.

Richard Pugh, deputy chairman, would not comment on suggestions that the board might break up the group into constituent parts as a way to solve a perceived management succession difficulty. A property revaluation has created a 3 per cent deficit on book values, at £690.3 million. The virtually unaged group balance sheet has shareholders' funds of £3.04 billion, or £12.33 a share. Cash totals £590 million.

Home shopping, where GUS has 38 per cent of the UK market, lifted profits £10 million, or 5.7 per cent, to £195.5 million. The group's four European companies had satisfactory results, but it is prepared for a tough two years in continental Europe.

Burberrys and Scotch House recovered in the second half after suffering from the Gulf War and its effects on tourism. Profits were £3.2 million lower at £32.3 million.

Financial services contributed £30.7 million (£32.6 million), reflecting the group's more cautious lending policy. Property rental yielded a same-again £13.7 million. On the stock market GUS 'A' shares 43p to 1448p.

AB seeks buyer for subsidiary

AB Electronic Products, the Glamorgan, South Wales components manufacturer in which TT Group last week took a 6 per cent stake, has said that it is seeking a buyer for its British automotive electronic systems business.

The company also gave a warning that exceptional charges in the second half to end-March would be greater than the £1.05 million in the first half, and that a loss is expected for the full year although borrowings have been reduced. AB shares retreated 3p to 78p.

Jones, Stroud edges ahead

Jones, Stroud Holdings, the Nottingham textiles and electrical accessories group, reported pre-tax profits of £4.8 million (£4.5 million) in the year to end-March. Total profits rose to £65.4 million (£58.4 million). Factory closure expenses of £509,000 and higher interest costs held profits back. Earnings per share were 18.05p (16.42p). A maintained final dividend of 5p a share makes 8p, unchanged.

Kewill down

Kewill Systems, the computer software and services group, saw pre-tax profits fall 35 per cent to £2.4 million in the year to end-March. Earnings were 19.9p (31.2p). There is no dividend (5p). Kewill is proposing to raise £2.7 million through a subscription. In January, Kewill issued a profits warning because of difficulties with Weigang, its German software supplier and distributor. The shares rose 9p to 110p yesterday.

Hampson slips

Hampson Industries, the West Midlands industrial group, saw pre-tax profits slip to £4.06 million (£5.04 million) in the year to end-March on turnover of £73.2 million (£78.5 million). Earnings were 3.62p (4.7p). An unchanged final dividend of 1.733p a share makes 2.373p, unchanged.

Norbain up

Norbain Electronics, the distributor of closed circuit television and access control equipment, increased pre-tax profits 11 per cent to £502,000 in the year to end-April. Earnings per share were 4.95p (4.1p). There is a dividend of 1p (0.7p).

Wellcome picks Schroders to advise on investments

BY MARTIN WALLER

THE Wellcome Trust, seller of 330 million shares in Wellcome, the pharmaceutical group, has appointed J Henry Schroder Wagg to advise on future investments.

"The trust will raise £3 billion from the sale and says this will be reinvested to provide a higher income than would have been available from the Wellcome shares. Schroder Investment Management will be the overall manager of the sale proceeds."

Part of these will form a UK equity-indexed fund of more than £500 million, to be managed by BZW Investment Management. An affiliate of that company, Barclays de Zoete Wedd Securities, the broker, is offering a so-called "sunshine trading" scheme, a special dealing facility under which it will agree to buy 450 of the most heavily traded

equities on the London market from institutional investors.

This will allow institutions to raise cash ahead of the public offer that closes next week. The shares will be bought on behalf of the new fund at a price related to the market price on July 24, the expected closing date of the institutional part of the offer.

Cash raised through the facility does not have to be used to buy Wellcome shares. Said Simon de Zoete at BZW Securities: "It will be attractive to what they could do at this moment, based on the market spread."

The special dealing facility is aimed at building up the fund's portfolio and is not designed to enhance the prospects of the share sale. But as the settlement date for any deals and for the offer is the same, August 3, it gives the

institutions the option of re-arranging their portfolios and effectively swapping the shares to be sold for Wellcome shares.

Advisers to the offer, which closes next week, are playing down the implications of recent issues that have flopped. It is accepted, however, that the retail tranche, worth £180 million, is unlikely to be an overwhelming success. The Wellcome camp said yesterday that indications of demand were encouraging.

Advisers point to the relative stability of the share price, down 1p at 877p yesterday. The American roadshows end today. Response is believed to have been favourable though not overwhelming, with non-binding offers in already for more than half the 80 million shares on offer.

City chemistry, page 23

Owners Abroad cuts 100,000 holidays

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

OWNERS Abroad Group, the package tour operator, says it has already cut more than 100,000 holidays from its summer programme, and that the cost-cutting exercise is not over yet.

Howard Klein, chairman, yesterday announced a first-half pre-tax loss of £27.2 million for the six months ended April 30, compared with a previous first-half loss of £21.4 million. First-half losses are not unusual in leisure companies as they invariably show profits in the second half.

The interim dividend rises from 0.9075p to 0.98p a share, but the shares — which have already fallen from a 12-month high of 131p seen in March — eased a further 3p to 63p each yesterday.

Mr Klein said it was impossible to give any meaningful indication as to the outcome

for the full year. The group, however, has cash resources in excess of £100 million and expects to remain cash positive for the foreseeable future.

The recent spate of discounting has encouraged a return to late booking, he said.

"However, I do not believe that this marks a return to the price wars of the past," he said. Discounting, he added, was a result of overcapacity caused by the dull economic conditions and the industry's attempts to fill the gap created by last year's collapse of International Leisure Group.

Owners Abroad said that although summer 1992 holiday bookings showed an encouraging trend up to the early part of the year, demand had slackened in the run-up to the general election and has not fully recovered.

Tempus, page 22

Tempus, page 20

WPP group to drive Jaguar advertising

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

WPP, among the world's largest but financially troubled advertising agencies, staged a reversal in fortunes yesterday when Charlotte Beers, the head of its American operations, announced that the group had won the \$20 million Jaguar account.

Ms Beers, 56, thought to be the highest-paid female executive in advertising and an owner of two Jaguars herself, became chairman and chief executive of Ogilvy & Mather Worldwide, WPP's American division, three months ago. Sales of the British carmaker,



Beers won account

which was bought by Ford three years ago for \$2.5 billion, have halved in seven years to just over 11,000, some of that due to recession.

But Jaguar's new policy to lease cars boosted sales by about 10 per cent in the first six months to 4,809.

Cynics in New York say the awarding of the Jaguar account to O&M Worldwide was a foregone conclusion. The agency already handles advertising for Ford. Jaguar has come under market pressure in recent years with the entry of the Japanese into the luxury car market. The rush to select an agency was caused partly by the impending arrival of a 1993 Jaguar model.

Jaguar says it is too early to disclose details of the new campaign, which will start in September, but Michael Dale, president of the car group, said more emphasis would be placed on reliability. WPP was awarded the contract two weeks before all six agencies shortlisted for the job were due to give their closing presentations.

The Jaguar contract helps balance several defections from WPP by accounts said to be worth \$70 million. Those included that of American Express.

Peel bucks poor trend in property

PEEL Holdings, the property group that has bought more shares in the Manchester Ship Canal Company and owns 71.6 per cent, has bucked the trend in a depressed market.

Net asset value at end-March stood at 306p a share (289p) and the group has returned to profit after a net £27.4 million loss in its 1991 financial year. John Whitaker, the chairman, reported a net profit of £8.86 million for the year ended March and said a strong performance by Manchester Ship and strong rental income helped.

The maintained final dividend is 2p, making an unchanged 3p a share payment for the year. The gearing ratio is 110.7 per cent (132.7 per cent).

Mr Whitaker said the weighting of Peel's portfolio and geographical spread had been major factors in upholding the property values in difficult conditions. The group had only a small exposure to offices in London and the South East, where the sharp falls had occurred, and 38 per cent of assets already lay in out-of-town retail or town centre shops around the country, which should be benefit from economic recovery. "Conditions in the property market are difficult," he said.

Parcelforce rivals wait for Bot package

BY RODNEY HOBSON

A MANAGEMENT buyout looks the best bet for Parcelforce, the Post Office parcel delivery service that is to be privatised. Rivals were yesterday distancing themselves from making a bid, at least until Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, clarifies his proposals.

Other carriers are more interested in pouncing on customers of Parcelforce once it has lost its competitive advantages of being exempt from VAT and being subsidised by the letter post.

United Parcels Service, the international distribution group based in Georgia, America, has come out most strongly against making a bid. UPS has a strategy of setting up a stable domestic parcels operation in European countries, although it bought Carystair, a profitable UK operation, two weeks ago.

It says: "We have pretty much done with our shopping in the UK." Ryder also

says it is not interested. Alan Jones, UK managing director of TNT, the Australian-owned group, says: "We will carefully study the details when they are announced and evaluate them."

Chris King, marketing director at DHL, comments: "We will not consider buying, at least until we understand what is really on offer." Kevin Appleton, at Lynx, also says that his company is not considering a bid at this stage.

Pat Howes, chief executive of Securicor Omega Express, agrees: "Until we know what is going to be privatised or not, it is too early to say if we would be interested in making a bid."

He points out that about a quarter of Parcelforce's trade is accepted over the country's 2,000 post office counters and asks: "Is that part of the business going to be privatised?"

Rival carriers who have long campaigned for Parcelforce to compete on

equal terms joined to welcome the proposal to privatise the service. Parcelforce has captured the market among small businesses which are not registered for VAT and cannot claim back the 17½ per cent imposition on private sector carriers.

Mr Jones says: "I'm sure Parcelforce will benefit from the disciplines that we all face in the private sector."

Mr Howes sums up the feeling of the private sector when he says: "We have always recorded a trading profit and have never depended on our parent company to support us financially through difficult times. In a free market, I think it is important that all companies show that they can stand on their own feet."

The privatisation of Parcelforce will be closely watched at Red Star, the British Rail parcel service that could be privatised along with the railways.

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AT&T overcomes sluggish economy

FROM REUTERS IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN Telephone & Telegraph Co has posted second-quarter operating income of \$1.52 billion, a 4.5 per cent increase over last year's figure.

Robert Allen, the chairman, said: "We continued to show growth in a still-sluggish economy. Equipment sales are not what we would like, but they tend to lag economic upturns. We still expect sales of our products to improve later in the year."

AT&T reported second-quarter net income of \$961 million, or 72 cents per share, compared with \$928 million or 72 cents per share, a year earlier. The 1991 second-quarter earnings included a special gain of 7 cents per share.

AT&T said second-quarter operating income for its NCR unit was \$98 million, up from \$46 million in the first quarter, when the unit merged with Teradata Corp. AT&T said current NCR figures were not comparable to 1991, since NCR results now included AT&T's former computer business, Teradata and sales to other AT&T units.

AT&T's total revenues for the second quarter were \$15.85 billion, against \$15.72 billion a year earlier. Overall products and systems revenues declined 5 per cent from a year ago to \$3.84 billion, while telecommunications services revenues rose 2.2 per cent to \$9.85 billion.

AT&T said revenues for rentals and other services declined 1.1 per cent in the second quarter from a year earlier, to \$1.73 billion, while its financial services unit revenues jumped 43 per cent, to \$425 million from \$298 million in the previous year.

In its telecommunications business, AT&T said gains in business services, especially toll-free and WATS-type calling, led growth in long-distance volume and revenue.

Residential and international services "saw healthy, but lesser, gains," the company said.

Home shoppers keep GUS going



Looking at the holiday market: Howard Klein, chairman of Owners Abroad

SOME things never seem to change, and among them, up to now, has been Great Universal Stores. Not for the Wolfson family, whose home shopping catalogues have dominated the United Kingdom's mail order market since the war, and whose Burberrys and Scotch House retail arms cater for the most traditional of British clothing habits, any concession to changes in City convention.

Indeed, the GUS image of corporate paternalism has changed rather less over the past 45 years than has a Burberrys raincoat. Unaltered, too, has been its resolute resistance to the abolition of its outmoded, two-tier equity capital structure.

But, fortunately, neither will GUS surrender perhaps its most endearing trait of all, to its shareholders, an ability to go on growing profits whatever the economic climate. The label most commonly attached to the stock may be defensive, but the tag born proudly by the trading record is indestructible.

At £459.2 million, 4.7 per cent up on last time, pre-tax profits were even better than the City had guessed, although it was always recognised that mail order was holding up better in the recession than the high street. Rationalisation measures introduced after the last post-strike are still working through to profit margins, which actually shaded higher over the period.

Profits from financial services were down, reflecting a tougher lending policy, but this also slowed the pace of the growth in bad debts. Burberrys benefited in the second half from the cold winter.

Earnings per share edged ahead from 116.3p to 122.5p after stripping out property profits, valuing the shares at less than 12 years' historic earnings. It would be rash to forecast anything other than another inch forward this year, but the shares are increasingly likely to attract speculative interest as the question of the management succession and some of the drastic remedies now being proposed are digested.

The preliminary figures do include a property revaluation showing a 2 per cent reduction on the previous year, and the board was, unusually, prepared to divulge the size of its cash pile, £590 million against £474 million. If the market is being softened up for some spectacular shake-up as GUS approaches its half-century, the A shares, at £1148, look interesting.

Owners Abroad

OWNERS Abroad wishes that the press would go away and bury the "scare stories" about over-capacity in the leisure market in the sand.

The company's share price was performing well in the euphoria of April's general election, since when it has fallen off a cliff. From about 110p in April, it fell to 66p last week, and yesterday was another 3p weaker at 63p.

First-half losses are traditional at holiday groups, because of the seasonal nature of costs and bookings. So the outcome for the six months ended April 30, at £27.2 million loss compared with a pre-tax loss of £21.4 million previously, was no real surprise. The higher loss reflects growth of the group's charter airline, Air 2000.

The general economic uncertainty, compounded by hesitancy among a holidaying public that senses discounting is not over yet, made it a tough first half. Such background conditions continue, and will make it an uncertain second half too. But in the long term, Owners Abroad is a survivor, the group is cash positive, and has a new enlarged £120 million bonding facility.

Howard Klein, the chairman, said 100,000 holidays were withdrawn from the summer programme, and believes that there still too many

holidays in the system. But with an eye to the competition, he is reluctant to say how he thinks the remaining months of the year to end October will develop. Meanwhile, the group continues to chip away at its cost base.

Traditionally, the higher the first-half loss, the higher the year-end profit. And analysts are content to stick with profit forecasts of £33.5 million for the year, against £31.6 million. The interim dividend is nudged forward from 0.9075p to 0.98p a share. A rating of 5.3 times prospective earnings superficially looks appealing, but until the industry climate is healthier, buying should be deferred.

National Home Loans

THE new management at National Home Loans may be struggling to rescue the company, but the stock market

seems to think it is already too late. The shares have plummeted from 130p to 2.25p in the past year, and even the preference shares are trading at just 5p. The odds on NHL's survival are finely balanced. On the positive side, the group has won the support of its banks. They have agreed, at a price, to extend the group's main £540 million loan until the end of 1995, which gives the group some stability. Holders of NHL's £160 million bond issues are likely to agree to a similar extension in the next few weeks. The banks, in particular, have a strong interest in NHL's survival since they stand to earn generous success fees.

Jonathan Perry, NHL's chairman, is making all the right moves to nurse the company to health.

The group has also taken prompt action to close the National Mortgage Bank, which was creating most of the bad-debt provisions and the losses. The bank made a £52 million provision on its book in the half year, the main factor in the group's pre-tax loss of £85.9 million. This should be the last time NMB makes a material impact on the group's profits.

NHL still has a solid core home loans business. This looks after 62,000 mortgage borrowers and more than 50,000 of these are still reasonably good customers. The numbers of arrears of more than three months have fallen by 10 per cent from their peak in February, which suggests that, given time, the business can recover.

The trouble is that NHL does not have much time. The group's capital has fallen from £217 million to £75 million in the past year. Unless the rate of provisions falls significantly, the group has 18 months before it hits the buffers.

Even now, the ordinary share capital has been wiped out, and there is only 76p for every £1 preference share. NHL's penny shares might attract high-risk gamblers looking for a recovery play, but should not interest anyone else.

Hong Kong reaches peak despite selling

Hong Kong — Prices closed at a record but gains were trimmed by heavy selling in the afternoon, triggered by an apparent lack of progress on the funding for Hong Kong's new airport. The Hang Seng index ended 37.07 points higher at 6,162.53, surpassing the previous record close of 6,134.75, reached on July 1. But the finish was well below the daytime high of 6,239.67 reached in the morning. Francis Wong, vice-president of DBS Securities, said: "The market is very choppy."

A Chinese-British meeting was held yesterday to discuss airport funding. Both sides agreed to hold another meeting as soon as possible to discuss airport financing plans further. The market reacted to the lack of accord by selling heavily across the board.

The all-ordinaries index ended 10.58 points firmer at 3,335.79. Turnover improved

to HK\$4.20 billion (£282 million) from HK\$3.41 billion on Wednesday. Banks, which led the morning rise on foreign institutional demand, remained the largest gainers with Hang Seng Bank rising HK\$1.50 to HK\$53.00 and HSBC 50 cents to HK\$53.

Cheung Kong, which jumped to HK\$26.30 in the morning, drifted back to close at HK\$25.80, up 20 cents to HK\$19.20.

Tokyo — Shares closed moderately lower after lacklustre trading and the Nikkei index ended under 17,000 for the first time since last Friday. The Nikkei fell 129.26 points, or 0.76 per cent, to 16,877.66. Turnover dropped to about 160 million shares against 256 million shares on Wednesday. Prices sank on weak-talking and a lack of positive factors, with some worries about real estate industry debts. (Reuters)

German move hurts Dow

New York — Shares fell in the morning as investors greeted the weak June housing starts and the rise in German interest rates with disappointment. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 9.42 points to 3,336.

Frankfurt — Prices were firmer at the end of a nervous session as tension rose in anticipation of news from the Bundesbank council meeting. The Dax index closed up 5.91 points at 1,740.53, below yesterday's high of 1,743.95.

The news that the Bundesbank was raising its discount lending rate came after the close of trading.

Sydney — The market closed slightly higher. The all-ordinaries index closed 2.5 points up at 1,639.2.

Singapore — Prices tumbled across the board on liquidation by institutional funds. The Straits Times index fell 18.54 points to 1,462.61 on a volume of 34 million shares. (Reuters)

STOCK MARKET

German discount rate rise wipes out share gains

NEWS of the three-quarter point rise in the German discount rate ensured another volatile session for investors in the equity market.

An early lead of almost 21 points was quickly wiped out as the Bundesbank signalled its intention to get to grips with German monetary targets and fight inflation. But a rise in the Lombard rate, which many brokers had feared and which would have put renewed pressure on sterling, almost certainly resulting in higher domestic base rates, failed to materialise.

By the close of business, most fund managers were taking the view that the news could have been much worse and they seemed content with the final outcome, which left the FT-SE 100 index down 3 points on the day at 2,483.4.

Share prices started the day in a confident mood despite an overnight setback on Wall Street. Some encouraging economic news and fresh buying in the futures market, which saw the September series touch 2513, was mainly responsible for the firm start.

Turnover grew to 525 million shares, partly inflated by a late programme trade which saw some large lines of stock go through the market. They included 1.8 million shares in Blue Circle Industries, down 10p at 196p, 1.9 million

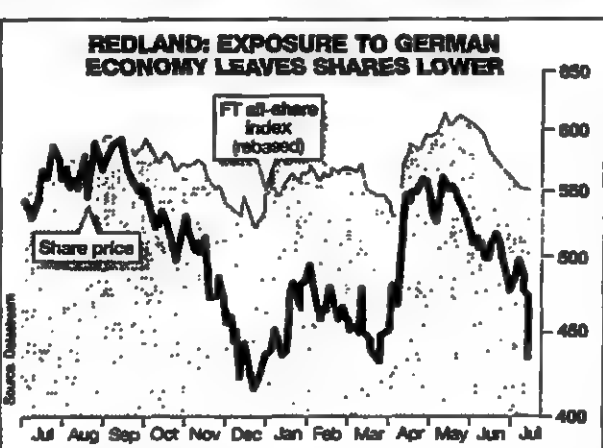
Forti, 1p cheaper at 162p, 1.9 million BPB Industries, 3p off at 140p, 1 million BTR, 1p easier at 445p, 2.4 million Asda, unchanged at 28p, 1.2 million Sears, 2p easier at 82p, and 2.3 million Guardian Royal Exchange, 7p better at 144p.

Worries that the rate move by the Germans would put further pressure on the dollar left the overseas earnings lower. Allied-Lyons fell 14p to 620p. Tate & Lyle slid 7p to 355p, and GEC dropped 3p to 216p.

Grand Metropolitan's shares ended 11p off at 457p with the company's joint broker, Panmure Gordon, reckoned to have shaved its profit forecast. Panmure is close to the bottom end of estimates.

Chemring's interim pre-tax profits were up from £2.41 million to £2.65 million and Bilibene-Whitefriars, the broker, says it is on target to meet its forecast of £5.25 million for the year. The strong balance sheet will enable the group to make earnings-enhancing buys that have yet to be reflected in the price, unchanged yesterday at 840p.

but it is still looking for pre-tax profits of about £1 billion in the current year. Oil shares



were also overshadowed by the possibility of a weaker dollar. The Americans have been big buyers of oil companies' shares this year, unperturbed by the prospect of a dividend cut and the world economic outlook. But there were few buyers around yesterday as BP fell 3p to 207p. Enterprise Oil lost 9p to 358p. Lascamo fell 12p to 144p, and Shell dipped 4p to 481p.

Companies with exposure to the ailing German economy were marked lower by market-makers in order to deter any sellers. Redland, which has been helped out throughout the recession by the contribution from its German operations, finished the day 19p cheaper at 445p, after briefly

touching 435p. RMC Group, also with big German interests, lost 8p at 518p.

The building sector in general remained in the doldrums, still worried by the gloomy outlook for the industry. County NatWest, the broker, has been telling its clients that it could be 1994 before the first signs of recovery begin to filter through.

Elsewhere among the building-supply companies Pilkington dropped below the £1 level to finish 11p down at a low of 96p. The shares have been a weak market of late and, if the shares continue to trade at this level, the group is likely to lose its status as a constituent of the FT-SE 100 index at the end of September.

National Home Loans, the mortgage lender, was steady at 24p despite the news of further losses at the halfway stage. Pre-tax losses in the first six months were £85.9 million, compared with a profit of £10.1 million for the corresponding period last time. The losses were struck after provisions of £79.4 million, including £52 million to cover losses at its NMB banking arm and a further sum of £20 million to cover non-payment of mortgage arrears. Last year, National Home Loans made a loss of £48 million and recently negotiated a restructuring of its debts that totalled £540 million.

A warning of increased provisions left the shares in Associated British Ports 23p.

The outlook is looking brighter for Sterling Publishing. Credit Lyonnais Laing rates the shares, 1p firmer at 60p, as a strong buy. Sterling recently returned to the black with profits of £3.2 million and Laing has perched in £5.7 million for the current year. About 3 per cent of the company changed hands yesterday.

lower at 323p. The warning accompanied the news of the letting of a 70,000 square foot

property in Bracknell, Berkshire. The group said that market conditions had deteriorated since last year when its property portfolio was last valued. Associated British Ports would be reviewing its property portfolio and expected to make further provisions of about £10 million.

Owners Abroad, the travel operator, fell 3p to 63p after the market heard the news of increased interim losses. The deficit in the first six months grew by £6.1 million to £27.1 million. But Howard Klein, the chairman, moved quickly to calm shareholders. He said the losses were in line with budgeted results and reflected the growth of Air 2000, the group's charter airline, during the winter period.

Great Universal Stores' A shares jumped 43p to £14.08 and the ordinary shares rose 25p to £19.38 after GUS reported a healthy increase in its full-year figures despite the recession. Pre-tax profits were up from £438.6 million to £459.2 million.

One of the few bright spots among the second-liners was Hicking Peasants, up 11p at 130p, after the shareholders were told that results so far in the current year were up on last year when the group made profits of £2.2 million.

MICHAEL CLARK

Foreign bond rules eased by Japanese

FROM REUTERS IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S finance ministry says it has eased restrictions on issues of foreign bonds.

A ministry statement said it would eliminate net asset requirements for companies that issue non-guaranteed bonds abroad, including straight corporate bonds and warrant bonds. Japanese companies' issues without bank guarantees formerly had to meet ¥33 billion (£137 million) net asset requirements, it said.

Under the new rules, effective from August 1, bonds guaranteed by banks and their parent companies can be issued with lower credit ratings and less net assets. Foreign public bodies, central banks, and international institutions will be able to issue straight bonds in Japan when they have BBB ratings.

Bowater Inc expects loss until 1993

BOWATER Inc does not expect to be profitable before next year (Reuters reports from Connecticut). A.P. Gammie, chairman, said newspaper printers would not improve enough for that to be possible, even after a reduction in discounts due on August 1.

The company reported a second-quarter net loss of \$2.4 million, compared with net profit of \$20.2 million last time. Mr Gammie said that while prices of newsprint and uncoated groundwood papers "appear to have stabilised... and even have shown signs of strengthening, they remain at clearly unprofitable levels".

Recovery was spotty and nationally, too much capacity was chasing too few orders. He believed, however, that the second quarter of 1992 was the bottom of the cycle.

RECENT ISSUES

Anglian Group 5p (210)	305	+	-do- Eurotrust Units	97	...
Brent Walker Wts	3	...	-do- Eurotrust Zero Pfr	30	...
British Bio-tech (M25)	425	...	Kenwood App 10p (285)	280	...
Country Casuals 5p (130)	139	...	M & G Recovery Inc	35	...
Dwyer A	21	...	-do- Recovery Inv Cap	13	...
EFM Japan Trust (100)	95	...	-do- Recovery Inv Gtd Us	49	...
EFM Japan Trust Warrants	36	...	-do- Recovery Pkg Us	102	...
Euro Smr Co's Us (500)	481	...	Multitrust Warrants	11	...
Grovenor (ins)	75	+	The Telegraph (325)	294	-4
HSBC HK10 (5H)	358	...	RIGHTS ISSUES		
Henderson Eurotrust Ord	67	...	BET n/p (110)	18	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RSSES:			Airtours	205p (-10p)
Standard Chart	446p (+11p)		LASMO	144p (-12p)
Gunness	566p (-10p)		Allied Lyons	620p (-14p)
ICI	1188p (-16p)		Grand Met	457p (-11p)
Yorks Chem	319p (+15p)		Ash & Lacy	155p (-10p)
Body Shop	300p (+12p)		BM Group	74p (-11p)
Fine Art Dev	429p (+10p)		Pilkington	96p (-11p)
Liberty	625p (+12p)		Blue Circle	199p (-10p)
Unilever	857p (+11p)		Persimmon	226p (-12p)
Rank Org	607p (+13p)		Redland	445p (-15p)
BOC Group	853p (+14p)		Wilson Bowden	340p (-16p)
FALLS:			Alcon	203p (-10p)
Berrose	190p (-8p)			
Cardiff Prop	125p (-10p)			

Closing Prices Page 25

THE decision of the Bundesbank to raise only its discount rate, in an attempt to tighten German monetary policy, received a warm welcome in the bond market.

Prices ended on a positive note, despite halving earlier gains of £2, helped by the reappearance of overseas investors anxious to pick up stock.

Most of their efforts were concentrated at the medium end, where prices rose by around £4 with the Treasury 10 per cent 2001 climbing six ticks to £105¹⁵/₃₂. Prices at the short end also made headway as Exchequer 10½ per cent 1997 rose five ticks to £104¹⁵/₃₂. The longer end was little changed.

It had been feared that the Bundesbank would also push up the Lombard rate, which would have put the pound under further pressure and almost certainly have resulted in an increase in bank base rates.

SHORTS (under 5 years)

High	Low	Stock	Price	Yld	Yld
100%	100%	1992	12.22	9.87	100%
100%	100%	1993	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	1994	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	1995	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	1996	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	1997	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	1998	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	1999	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	2000	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	2001	12.42	9.85	100%

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

High	Low	Stock	Price	Yld	Yld
100%	100%	1992	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	1993	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	1994	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	1995	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	1996	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	1997	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	1998	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	1999	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	2000	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	2001	12.42	9.85	100%

LONGS (over 15 years)

High	Low	Stock	Price	Yld	Yld
100%	100%	1992	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	1993	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	1994	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	1995	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	1996	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	1997	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	1998	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	1999	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	2000	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	2001	12.42	9.85	100%

INDEX-LINKED

High	Low	Stock	Price	Yld	Yld
100%	100%	1992	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	1993	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	1994	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	1995	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	1996	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	1997	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	1998	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	1999	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	2000	12.42	9.85	100%
100%	100%	2001	12.42	9.85	100%

UNRAIDED

11.04	9.38				
11.12	9.47				
7.32	8.44				
9.51	9.13				
10.44	9.24				
12.40	9.37				
9.22	8.86				
9.60	8.99				
10.60	8.66				
10.60	8.24				
8.99	8.84				
10.81	8.31				
9.49	8.25				

100%	122%	Trans II
160%	170%	Trans II
140%	140	Trans II
144%	138%	Trans II
160%	139%	Trans II
134%	136%	Trans II
138%	135%	Trans II
114%	108%	Trans II
121%	112%	Trans II
117%	107%	Trans II
100%	100%	Trans II

A long message from Frankfurt

The Bundesbank's decision to raise its discount rate by 0.75 of a percentage point does not necessarily constitute good news. The move is far more benign internationally than a rise in the lombard rate, which might have triggered a realignment within the exchange-rate mechanism. British interest and mortgage rates are safe for the time being. But amid all the excitement, a deeper message emerged from Frankfurt. Long-term rates, like those on ten-year deposits, remained relatively steady yesterday, and even showed a slightly positive tendency. This market reaction stands in sharp contrast to the previous occasions when the Bundesbank raised rates. Then, the markets believed that the next move would be downwards. This time, they are no longer so sure. They are even less sure about when Germany's interest rates are going to fall.

For some time Germany has had a downward sloping yield curve with short-term rates around 9.6 per cent and long rates at 8 per cent. A great deal of cash has flowed into short-term deposits, thereby boosting M3, the money supply indicator whose unruly growth prompted yesterday's events in the first place. Large borrowers are therefore still able to secure long-term funds on favourable terms. The Bundesbank's decision to close the window between the lombard and the discount rate effectively suggests an attempt to increase long rates and thus flatten the inverted yield curve. Had the Bundesbank opted for a raise in the lombard rate, the situation would have been the reverse. The yield curve would have become even more inverted and the money supply would have expanded in the short run. It would have set in motion a potentially vicious circle.

The worst has been avoided but higher long rates are themselves an unwelcome sign that German interest rates are likely to remain higher than anyone would have thought six months ago. They will not come down this year, and they may even remain at or near present levels this time next year. British rates have little room to do otherwise.

Deeper in debt

Delay in recovery is bringing uncomfortable rises in government borrowing that will make the impending cabinet debate on next year's public spending round even more tense than the £14 billion initial overshoot of departmental claims promised. The economy is now more likely to shrink by up to 0.5 per cent this year than grow by the 1 per cent the Chancellor assumed when he forecast a 1992-3 public sector borrowing requirement of £28 billion.

In the City, PSBR forecasts have already risen to £32 billion or more this financial year with at least as big an overshoot on the budget forecast of £32 billion for 1993-4. The unexpectedly high June PSBR of £4.23 billion, which brings the first quarter deficit up to £10.8 billion, indicates why. VAT receipts are running at about the same level as in June 1990 and June 1991 despite inflation and the rise in the tax rate. Compared with 1991, overall cash receipts fell by 0.5 per cent for the quarter while spending rose by 7 per cent.

Mr Lamont could massage the figures by selling £5 billion of debt owed to the government by privatised companies. Otherwise, gross gilt-edged sales might have to reach £36 billion this year and more than £40 billion next year even allowing for buoyant National Savings receipts. Fortunately for the government, the recession has persuaded many institutions to divert money from equities into fixed interest. Increased funding will surely still harden long-term interest rates relative to short-term rates, which themselves seem stuck for a while.

Wellcome seeks right chemistry in City for positive reaction to issue

Martin Waller assesses the prospects of the pharmaceutical company's share offer, as it enters a critical phase

In the red test tube are the tooth-grinding critics, who insist the company is an overpriced carriage drawn by two horses, one ageing and the other looking suspiciously lame. In the blue test tube are most of the big names of the City, linked to the £3 billion Wellcome share issue and keen for it to be a success, and the Wellcome Trust, the charity that owns three quarters of the pharmaceutical group and is doing the selling.

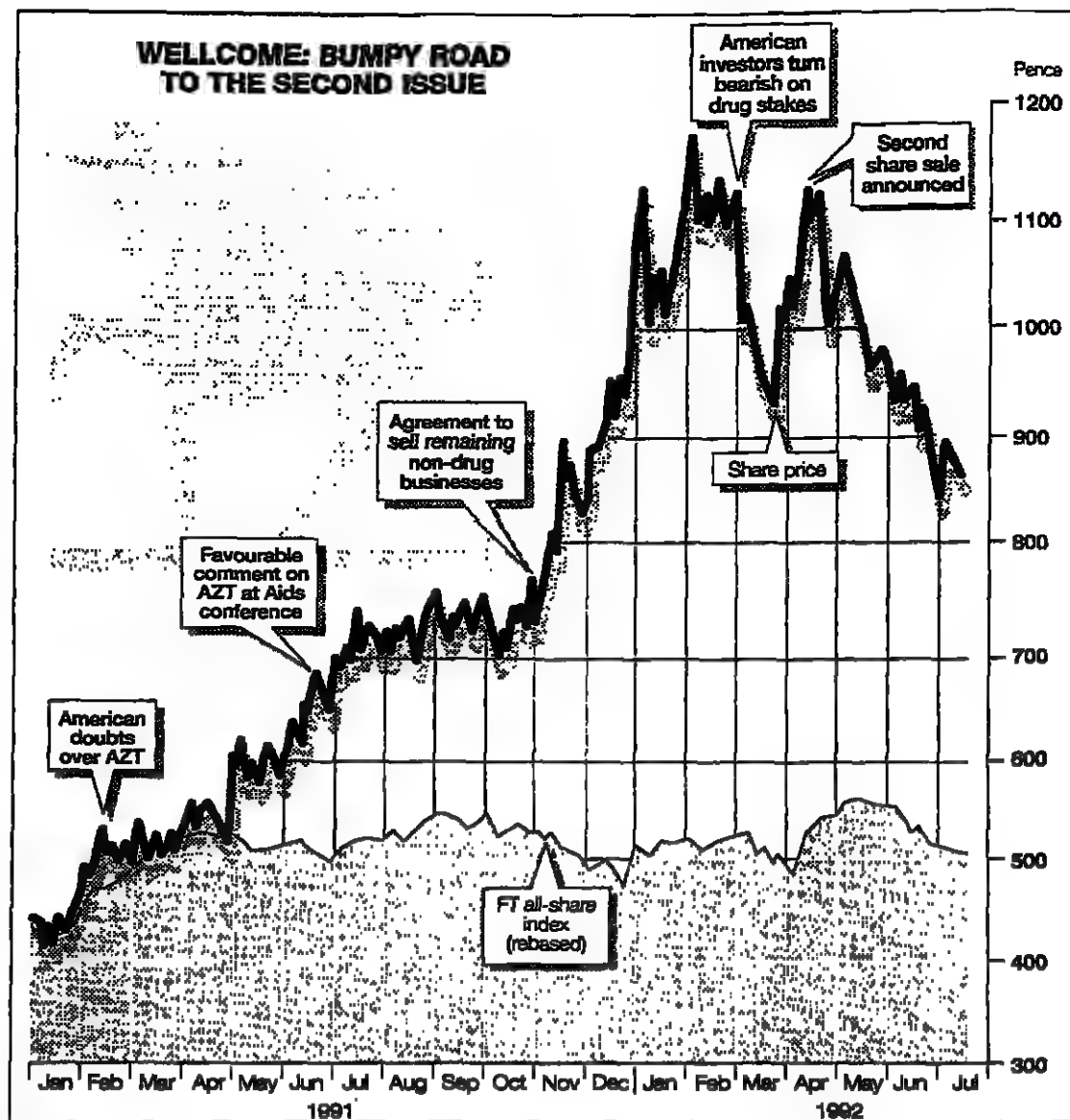
The reaction when the test tubes are mixed and Wellcome comes to the market will set the tone for such big cash-raising exercises for a good while, coming as it does after the failed flotation of GPC Group, the Irish aircraft leasing company and at the end of a summer that has been disastrous for new issues.

The timing could hardly be worse. Retail investors will be asked to apply by Tuesday afternoon, although the institutions will have a couple more days to make up their minds. The past week has seen three other new issues prove unattractive to the general public. Shares in Anglian Windows opened at a discount after a desultory response from the man in the street. Tatum Cider and MFI flopped, and MFI shares are also expected to start trading today at a discount. Dealings in Tatum will not start until next Thursday, but the omens are not good. All three issues were regarded as good value in the City. Those few analysts who remain outside the Wellcome camp are more doubtful about the value for money in this much bigger international issue, although in fairness in a tender offer such as this they have their reasons for talking the price down.

Wellcome's advisers make a significant distinction between their client and the other, smaller flotations. Wellcome shares are already traded, giving some benchmark to their worth. And as one of the leading drug companies in the world, the company remains a core part of any investment portfolio.

Wellcome was founded by two Americans, Sir Henry Wellcome and Sir James Spence, in 1880. When Sir Henry, a man of strong religious and humanitarian beliefs, died in 1936 he left all his shares to be held in charitable trusts, now collected together as the Wellcome Trust, to promote the advancement of medical research. His legacy has been a remarkable one. Wellcome has become one of the great medical research institutes of the century, by some measurements the world's leading drug company and one that can boast four Nobel laureates.

Wellcome's huge, sprawling research park in Beckenham, south



London, looks more like a university campus than a hive of industry. Not all the work that goes on at Beckenham is aimed at finding new remedies for mankind's ills. A fair part goes into protecting the patents Wellcome has built up over the decades.

The Trust floated the Wellcome company in 1986, selling about 21 per cent of its holding. The shares, sold initially at 120p, touched £1.28 this January, before news of the second share sale this summer, helped by explosive growth in pharmaceutical sales.

Wellcome came to the market on the back of its huge success in developing anti-viral agents, and in particular the first horse pulling that carriage, Zovirax, an effective counter for herpes and shingles, but the patent for which expires by stages over the next five years. But it was another, sexually-transmitted virus that catapulted Wellcome into the headlines and transformed the share price, providing the second horse on the carriage along with a fair share of controversy.

At the time of the first flotation, it was known that Wellcome was working on an anti-Aids agent, but the company was understandably keen to talk down prospects. At least one other quoted company has had its reputation severely tarnished by an attempt to talk up the efficacy of its

products against Aids during the scares of recent years. In March 1986, *The Lancet*, the medical journal, reported that the drug AZT had been tested on humans for six weeks without serious side-effects. It looked like the modern medical Holy Grail, the long-awaited first assault on Aids.

Wellcome, to its eternal credit, was again keen to play down the implications, stressing that trials were at an early stage and there were serious side-effects. But by the start of 1987, the shares had risen sharply.

There is evidence that Wellcome was at this stage somewhat embarrassed by the media attention given to AZT. Otherwise named Retrovir. While the City and the press, for their different reasons, were keen to know about progress on the Aids front, Wellcome was keen to talk about the market for the less exciting but, at the time, more significant Zovirax.

The company has not helped its cause, however, by refusing to indicate just how much money it makes from Retrovir, now in full-scale production, or from any other drug, including Zovirax. This has allowed a well-honed Aids pressure group to allege profiteering, arguing suggestions that as much as half of all earnings come from the Aids, the media, particularly in America, have often

turned hostile as a consequence. Even worse, a maverick group of scientists, who oppose the prevailing medical opinion on the disease and claim the HIV virus has little or no role in the development of full-blown Aids, has alleged that Retrovir is as damaging to the patient as the symptoms themselves, they say Wellcome is engaged in "iatrogenic genocide", hastening the death of patients by the prescription of the drug.

Those holding such opinions remain on the fringes of medical science. Wellcome courteously refuses to split down profits, but points out quite reasonably that while Retrovir sales rose by £7 million to £177 million between 1990 and 1991, in part because of price cuts, group pre-tax profit rose 28 per cent to £403 million over the same period.

The controversy over Retrovir is the reason why Retrovir, unusually for a drug other than opiates or other compounds that can be diverted for recreational use, is produced in tamper-proof capsules. While there is evidence that Aids sufferers, in America in particular, are drawing away from the compound because of the unpleasant side-effects, a black market has by all accounts grown up in AZT.

Drug companies' share prices are uncommonly volatile and prone to move on market speculation that brokers, often scientifically unquali-

fied, themselves fail to fully understand. Fisons was once one of Britain's blue-chip companies but has now been brought low after problems with the American Food and Drug Administration over production of its compounds in Britain, which led to a sharp decline in the share price.

The Wellcome camp claims that the arrival on the market of another 38 per cent of the share capital will, if anything, curb such market volatility, a theory that is not easy to square with past experience. Only a day after the size of the issue was announced, Wellcome shares were on the slide, again after reports that scientists at Yale University had claimed an important discovery in the development of a new Aids drug, Nevirapine, with fewer side-effects than Retrovir.

On Sunday, two days before the public offer in Britain closes, the eighth International Congress on Aids opens in Amsterdam. Wellcome and Retrovir will doubtless garner a fair few news headlines.

Two uncertainties cloud the prospects for the issue. The market in America for new share offers is a growing disaster area. It was the cold shoulder from American institutions that saw off GPC. American interest, to judge from the number of shares allocated to Wall Street, has been lower than expected for Wellcome.

The second problem Wellcome was required to highlight in its prospectus, "The pharmaceutical industry in the United States is confronting the most challenging political environment in many years," potential investors are warned. Put bluntly, 1992 is election year and the American government is very publicly requiring drug firms, seen as huge profit-makers, to cut prices or make rebates to state bodies prescribing their drugs. In Japan, a market where Wellcome is under-represented with just a 0.5 per cent market share, prices are reviewed by the health ministry every two years, and the average reduction in 1992 was 8 per cent.

In its favour, the company has a new management put in place in 1990 headed by John Robb, the chief executive, who moved across from Beecham, and a far more market-oriented approach to selling drugs. Sir Henry Wellcome's legacy was a great one in research terms, but as a private company Wellcome was rather more relaxed about the business of peddling the resulting product. Mr Robb has concentrated on chopping out the less profitable businesses and the less productive lines of research.

As the institutional tender period heads for its close next week, there are two approaches the City can adopt. If institutions believe that the share price has been driven down far enough in the run up to the sale and will rebound thereafter, the discount on the existing price likely in the tender offer represents a buying opportunity, especially if it is in the 15 per cent area the more bullish observers say is needed to get the issue away. The more risk-averse investors, however, will hold back to see the striking price and then top up their holdings in the after-market. On that balance does the future of the issue depend.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

City fathers trust fund

ONE of the few City institutions to be untouched by controversy in recent years is the Corporation of the City of London. This may change as the City fathers are being taken to court over their custodianship of the City cash, a £1 billion fund that has been built up over the past 1,000 years. Patrick Streeter, 45, a chartered accountant and part-time antiquarian, is taking action under the 1925 Trustee Act claiming that these funds are held in trust for the citizens of London and that proper accounts and a report on the City's stewardship should be published. Andrew Colvin, the City solicitor, says that the fund is the private property of the City to spend on what it likes, the only restraint being public opinion. "I think it is a disgrace that they are sitting on all this cash and spending it so carelessly," says Streeter. "They have a problem in that they have to spend the income each year—£50 million—or else they pay income tax, but most of it seems to go on banquets at the Guildhall."

Hoare recruits

AFTER a year of cost cutting, and 50 redundancies in equities alone, Hoare Govett is strengthening its UK equities desk by bringing in Peter Toeman and Steve Thom, the UBS Phillips & Drew banking team rated third by Exel. Hoare's, now owned by ABN Amro, the Dutch bank, has also recruited Simon Har-



"I shot an arrow in the air, it fell to earth I know not where—but my foot hurts"

gravees, BZW market-making director, to cover banks, while Trevor Griffiths, a general salesman, is joining from UBS P&D. Hoare's took on Brian Crossley from Merrill Lynch last year to cover European banks but, inopportunistly, given it is broker to Lloyd's Bank, has been without a UK banking team for six months after Nick Collier's move to Morgan Stanley.

Racing away

THE Chemical Corporate Challenge—the old Manny Hammy run—has attracted 6,000 runners and yielded a new fastest chief executive in the 3.5-mile race in Battersea Park on Wednesday. John Barber, 44, head of Royal Reinsurance, completed the course in 18.21 minutes, just beating the 18.35 minutes set by previous winner, Terry O'Neill of the Human Resource Partnership. Barber,

whose business is reinsuring the likes of Hurricane Hugo and Piper Alpha, has been running for ten years and says he finds it "the only way to keep sane in a world where every time you switch on the radio you hear of a catastrophe and think 'what's in this for us?'". Unfortunately, the rest of his team was not speedy enough to qualify him for the finals in New York. British Gas came up with the fastest men's team and National Westminster the fastest women's and fastest mixed teams.

On the mat

THE Wolverhampton judo team, may soon be looking for a new sponsor if Kalon, the paint maker, succeeds in the current hostile bid for its rival Manders. For the past three years, Manders, based in Wolverhampton, has sponsored the team, but the sponsorship may now be in jeopardy with Kalon, whose ex-chairman Leslie White is now chairman of Leeds United, better known for its football interests. Today, at least, Roger Akers, Manders' chief executive, will be setting such fears aside when he sends off two of the Wolverhampton team, Design White and Elvis "Teddy Bear" Gordon, to Barcelona where they are representing Britain in the Olympics. Gordon got his name on account of his "exceptionally sweet nature", according to John Farmer, Manders' finance director. "Sweet, that is, except when he's out on the mat when he's absolutely lethal."

DEBRA ISAAC

BUSINESS LETTERS

Chambers of commerce might not give impartial advice to start-ups

From Mr Matt Huber

Sir, Christopher Stewart-Smith's argument (July 13) that chambers of commerce should be sources of business advice is flawed. Chambers may potentially be "the natural voice of business" along European lines—but are they really impartial sources of business advice for start-ups? Chambers exist courtesy of membership subscriptions. Local enterprise agencies on the other hand, to which he makes sweeping reference, are impartial—and are not financed by those they assist. This makes them realistic and objective about the chances for new business in their area.

The flaw in Mr Stewart-Smith's case is that he seems to overlook the valuable and necessary work enterprise

agencies do to rein in, or even put off, those wanting to dash headlong into ill-planned, poorly financed or unsoundly based business ventures and self-employment.

As former director of an enterprise agency, I know how often organisations like mine have to advise an aspiring business person that a town with five existing hairdressing salons may not viably support a sixth—despite the optimism of the would-be entrepreneur; would a chamber of commerce be as frank and neutral, faced with a potential new member?

Yours faithfully, MATT HUBER, Woodside, Southfield Place, Weybridge, Surrey.

Evidence on Maxwell needed

From Mr M.A. Kirkham

Sir, Last week the SIB released its comments on Imro's report into its approval and supervision of the Maxwell companies which managed pension fund assets.

Unfortunately, the decision has been taken to suppress publication of the full Imro report, apparently on legal advice.

However, SIB does reveal that Imro concluded that both companies, Bishopsgate Investment Management (BIM) and London and Bishopsgate International Investment Management (LBI) were properly admitted to membership.

No evidence is offered to support this conclusion.

We do know that Imro set a number of criteria for assessing the suitability of applicants for membership. These were identified in Imro's evidence given earlier this year to the House of Commons Social Security Committee chaired by Frank Field. The first two were:

(1) The business record and reputation of the applicant and its controllers.

(2) The honesty and integrity of its directors and senior staff.

Robert Maxwell was a director of BIM at the time of its application; events have shown that his honesty and integrity were not beyond reproach.

Is it not reasonable to ask Imro and the SIB to produce the evidence which led them to conclude otherwise?

Yours sincerely, M.A. KIRKHAM, 37 St James's Avenue, Hampton Hill, Middlesex.

NSM capital reorganisation misconceived

From Mr J.J.S. Allison

Sir, NSM plc 8.5p (net) convertible cumulative redeemable preference 10p shares now stand at 25p and the ordinary shares are quoted at 1p. This disaster follows the demise of Burnett and Hallamshire and is a repeat of the same errors of diversification by buying and then selling companies and assets at wrong times and prices.

The proposed capital reorganisation to be considered at the extraordinary meeting of the company to be held on Friday, July 24, does not address the problems. It merely incurs cost and camouflages the issues. This proposed reorganisation is probably also depressing share prices due to uncertainty.

The core coal companies appear to be in order and the only way to pay interest

charges (which are likely to fall) and preference dividend is by increasing production and sales and reducing costs. Would shareholders who believe the capital reorganisation is not the answer and consider voting against the resolutions at the EGM, please contact me at the address below.

The Times reported on the company statement on June 24. Yours faithfully, J.J.S. ALLISON, Managing Director, Sherburn Stone Co Ltd, 15 Front Street, Sherburn Hill, Durham.

Letters to The Times Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY JULY 17 1992

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INFOTECH TIMES

Patterns that turn into codes

A system using internal shapes should allow the army to tell tanks from trees, writes George Cole

An obscure branch of mathematics, concerned with the patterns and shapes of everyday objects, could change the face of computing and telecommunications this decade. Books with hundreds of colour pictures and dozens of pages of text are being stored on a standard computer floppy disc, while moving video images can be sent along ordinary telephone lines.

These developments are based on "fractals", mathematical codes that can express an object's shape or texture. The term fractal, meaning "fragmented", was coined by the French mathematician Benoit Mandelbrot in 1975. Fractal theory says natural objects such as a cloud or a cabbage have irregular or "chaotic" shapes. Within these shapes, however, is a series of patterns that can be expressed as a mathematical code.

Fortunately, M. Mandelbrot's work could be tested on computers, which had the power to process the codes. The result was stunning computer graphics and displays. Fractal image generation is also used in flight simulators and for special effects in films.

However, if fractals can produce complex shapes from mathematical codes, why not also use them to convert complex images into relatively simple codes? In 1987 the British mathematicians Dr Michael Barnsley and Dr Alan Sloan formed Iterated Systems, in Atlanta, Georgia.

They were hoping to develop a system that used fractals to compress or reduce the size of images. Data compression is important now that some of today's and most of tomorrow's personal computers are designed to work with pictures and video.

The snag is that images require lots of digital code, which in turn needs lots of storage space or memory. For example, a floppy disc can store only one or two high-quality colour images.

Another problem arises when digital images are sent along a telephone line, satellite link or



Positive identification: Andrew Sinden, of Origin, with the credit card with the user's image squeezed on to the magnetic strip

computer network system. The data can take ages to transmit and increases telephone bills.

In 1988 Dr Barnsley invented the fractal transform compression system. This works by analysing a digitalised image and searching for sets of fractals. The fractal codes require little data. For example, a high-quality colour image using about 800 kilobytes of data can be reduced to ten kilobytes.

A standard floppy disc can therefore store hundreds of colour images or even a one-minute video clip. To demonstrate the power, Iterated Systems has developed the Floppy Book — a floppy disc containing 100 colour images and 100 pages of text.

The system also enables computer images to be sent quickly. It takes about five seconds to send a colour image along a conventional telephone line, but less than a second with the new digital systems.

"Fractal transform has many other advantages," says Jon Blay, the marketing manager of Iterated Systems' British subsidiary in Reading, Berkshire. "For instance,

the system generates an image to match the picture quality of the display screen. The better the television screen or monitor, the better the image."

Dr Barnsley says: "Fractal transform will revolutionise image technology just as the silicon chip has revolutionised electronics."

The system has gained the support of the large American software company Microsoft, which was granted a licence for the product this year. The system is also being closely examined by the International Standards Organisation, a body that sets world standards for various technologies.

The Gartner Group, an American research organisation, now predicts that fractal transform has a 50 per cent chance of becoming the world standard for image compression. Last year the company put the possibility at only 20 per cent.

Last month Iterated Systems and Racal, the telecommunications company, announced Pictor (Pictures in Radio), a system that sends

high-quality colour images over high-frequency radio links. The digitised images are compressed using fractal transform and then mixed with the radio signal. Transmitting an image with Pictor takes about six minutes.

Origin IQ, of Whyteleafe, Surrey, is working on several projects using the technology. One of these is for the Civil Aviation Authority, which is evaluating the use of external video cameras on aircraft. The cameras provide pilots with additional information on the workings of an aircraft. A jumbo jet requires seven video cameras on its fuselage, and a vast amount of videotape would be needed to store the images. However, the new system makes it possible to record all the video pictures in the flight recorder.

The electronics company Panasonic is using a low-cost — less than £10,000 — system from Origin to store company documents and pictures, and a news agency is considering the system for remote access to its video library.

Andrew Sinden, Origin's managing director, says fractal trans-

form compression means that videophones that display moving video pictures can be used on ordinary telephone lines. "You do not have to wait for the new digital telephone systems," he says.

Origin is also working with Apac, the bank security organisation, on a credit card that stores the user's image in the magnetic strip. The image is squeezed on the card using compression and can be read by a computer linked to a box of electronics.

The American military is conducting tests to see whether fractals can be used to detect objects such as camouflaged tanks. "A fractal is a mathematical equation," Mr Sinden says, "so in theory different objects will have different equations. This way, you could differentiate between a tank and a tree."

Another possible use is in security. Cameras at an air terminal or port could be linked to a computer database with stored images of suspected criminals or terrorists as a fractal code. If a person's photograph matched a code, it could trigger an alarm.

The new Malachi delivers the word

Translation of the Bible into obscure languages is speeded by computer

If you are interested in translating documents into languages such as Welsh, Swahili or Sinhala, you could find the people with the know-how at the British and Foreign Bible Society. You may do even better to talk it over with their computer.

The society is developing software to understand words in any language, ready for production work by the end of this year. Its first job will be concordances — indexes of words and passages — in Russian, Welsh and Hebrew.

Producing concordances for modern editions of the Bible in different languages is a large part of the society's work, but its better

business of making things as available as possible as quickly and easily as possible to people."

Some basic rules of translation between two languages can be written down in a transition network, but they fail to recognise ambiguities. In French, when you ask for a light you want feu, but if you see the light the verb is *comprendre*. These different rules for translating the same word depend on context, which computer programs generally do badly.

Malachi can extract the sense of the words in context. Malachi has a technique called closed corpus analysis, which allows the machine to find and classify equivalent words

in its own arbitrary ways. These functional categories can be used to form putative translation paradigms. Strangely, rather than searching for uniformity in translations that it analyses, Malachi learns most about a language when it finds alternative uses of words in different contexts. The system matches word stems in different languages and notes their alternatives according to context.

David Robinson, the society's linguist and computer consultant, says: "It will work best in translating between languages that are not too dissimilar."

Malachi also finds and classifies morphemes — the language components. The prefixes and suffixes are separated — from the stems, classified, and then used themselves to classify the type of word they combine with.

A morpheme is a simple language unit, either a word or part of a word, that has some meaning — for instance, bar in bartender, or ham in hamburger. In another language individual morphemes can be misunderstood to produce quids of translation. In English, hamburgers became beefburgers. In Tonga the morpheme *ba* is the prefix for a plural noun, and *mu* the singular prefix, so bartenders become *mueda* in singular.

TOM DAWN



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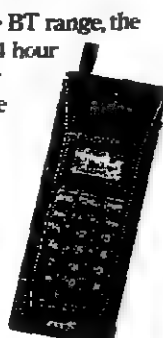
The most advanced cellphone in the BT range, Quartz is a perfect blend of high performance, compact size and sheer good looks.

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Go fuzzy for the best results

A strange logic is making household appliances work better in Japan

Japanese consumers are buying washing machines that automatically set the cleaning cycle and carpets that heat up as room temperature falls, George Cole writes. Both products claim to use fuzzy logic, a technology that tries to make computers copy humans.

Fuzzy logic was developed in 1965 by Professor Lotfi Zadeh, of the University of California. Computers normally work with precise information, but humans can understand vague terms such as "quite warm" and "more or less". A computer would say that a 35-year-old was middle-aged and that at 55 people become old. In reality, the line is blurred. Fuzzy logic uses mathematical codes to enable computers to try to make sense of imprecise information.

Little interest was initially paid to Professor Zadeh's work and few applications were developed. In 1974 Abu Mamdani, an electrical engineer at Queen Mary College, London, demonstrated a fuzzy logic system that controlled a steam engine's pressure and

speed. In 1980, the Danish company F.L. Smith used it to control a cement kiln and by 1987 it was controlling the Sendai subway train system in Japan. Then in 1989 there was an explosion of so-called fuzzy logic products on the Japanese consumer market.

Today many products in Japan sport fuzzy logic labels, including washing machines, fan heaters, microwave ovens, vacuum cleaners, toasters and refrigerators.

"People want more leisure time," says Akira Nagano, of Matsushita, the parent company of Panasonic and Technics. "They like fuzzy logic because it saves time and lets them perform like experts."

Most fuzzy logic products are operated by a single button and the appliances do the thinking. The products offer some novel features. Sanyo, for example, markets a carpet with a built-in heater. Sensors detect the temperature and the

heater switches on if it falls below a preset level.

There are also washing machines using optical sensors to measure the quality and quantity of dirt, while another sensor determines the size of the wash load and whether the detergent is liquid or powder. The information is fed to a microcomputer, which then selects one of 600 wash cycles.

The latest Japanese vacuum cleaners contain sensors that detect the amount of dust and type of floor. The cleaner sets the suction level. There are camcorders that break down an image into picture zones and analyse them. This is claimed to improve focusing and exposure.

"Today's camcorders are small and light, which is a great benefit to consumers," says Peter Hamblin, Panasonic UK's marketing director, "but there is an intrinsic problem of

camera shake as a camcorder flaps around in the hand. Our compact camcorders use a fuzzy logic system that analyses movement and reduces camera shake."

Few fuzzy logic products are sold outside Japan, although last year the Franco-Italian company SGS-Thomson Microelectronics began a £15 million programme to develop fuzzy logic microchips.

The critics suggest that fuzzy logic is a sales gimmick. Even so, there are many more fuzzy logic products in the pipeline and the companies have developed an enhanced system being called neuro-fuzzy. This combines fuzzy logic with neural networks. It is intended to "make computers work more like the human brain and help them to perform 'intelligent tasks' such as understanding speech."

Yoshihiro Fujiwara, the director of Matsushita's central research laboratory, says the home of the future may use these systems in the kitchen. These would have sight, smell, sound and weight sensors to help with cooking.

CD quality on the air

EUROPE and Canada have set 1995 as the date for introducing a digital radio system to create CD quality. The broadcasting system promises to improve listening for city-dwellers, motorists and those in hilly areas, many of whom have poor reception because conventional FM waves scatter off buildings and hills. Interference among the broken-up signals causes distortion and tunnels block the signals altogether.

The process converts sound into numbers and protects the signal's integrity until it is reconverted into analogue sound at the receiver end. Digital audio broadcasting (DAB) signals can be received in dead zones, such as tunnels and subways, because the signals can be piped in with repeaters, also called "gap fillers". In the past such repeaters had to use another frequency so that it did not distort the signal it was intended to assist.

Germany is leading the European nations pushing for the system by 1995. Canada also aims to have its first DAB station on the air that year. The United States is less eager, partly because small recession-hit radio stations are reluctant to invest.

The portable stereo craze and advances in car audio have put pressure on broadcasters to keep up with the technology or risk losing listeners, especially as new types of digital tapes and discs will be on sale soon.

The proposed DAB system, discussed at a meeting in Montreux, Switzerland, last month, would faithfully render CD recorded music from the softest cymbal swish to a symphonic finale. The system does not need expensive roof antennas and simplifies tuning because receivers will recognise station names, not broadcast frequencies.

DAB has picked up speed recently. A world radio conference in March set aside airwaves for it, while Germany and France have developed a broadcasting system they hope

the rest of the world will adopt. At the Montreux conference, Peter Radloff, the BBC delegate, called the European system, which is also being tested in Canada, an "outstanding success."

Europe is leading the way for two reasons. First, governments, hoping to regain some high-tech clout, have committed £37 million to the European Community-backed project since 1988. Second, unlike the US, the national and regional networks cover wide areas with the same programmes, which works well



with DAB's advantages. In Europe alone, sales could be boosted by up to £2 billion annually, said Frank Mueller-Roemer, the head of a German-led European consortium working on DAB.

TONY CZUCZKA

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Central City to regain best form

CENTRAL City can capture the Hackwood Stakes at Newbury today in the care of Pat Eddery, who has a vested interest, since he also owns her dam, Miss Silca Key.

Since her attention was turned to sprinting after she failed to take a mile in the 1,000 Guineas, Central City has run only one slightly disappointing race and that was when seventh in the Cork and Orrery Stakes at Royal Ascot.

In order to win today, Central City must certainly do better since her opposition includes Amigo Menor, Spanish Storm, and Montedoro, who all finished in front of her at Ascot.

That she is capable of doing so was made clear when she finished in front of Amigo Menor in France last time, when they were second and eighth respectively in the group three Prix de Ris-Orangis at Evry.

Today's race is only a fisted race, the like of which Central City won at Lingfield at the end of May, having previously been runner-up to Prince Ferdinand in the Sandy Lane Stakes at Haydock.

It is that performance which

sticks in my mind because Prince Ferdinand went on to win the Jersey Stakes at Royal Ascot before being beaten by the much-improved Toussaint at Newmarket.

Only Royale, who won her first race in a hack canter at Edinburgh, as well she should have done in view of the way she then went on to win her only subsequent race here, is taken to give an encore by winning the Birkdale Group Handicap.

My nap, though, is on Pole Chip to take the Chatteris Hill Maiden Fillies' Stakes. Before she finished third behind Marina Park and Cynic on her debut at York in May, the Ian Balding-trained filly was

backed as if defeat was not even contemplated.

While neither Cynic nor Pole Chip have run in the meantime, Marina Park has. And in finishing fourth in the Queen Mary Stakes at Royal Ascot before beating the subsequent Nottingham winner, Joyfracing, at Sandown, she made it abundantly clear that the form of that race at York reads well.

So Pole Chip is taken to take a leaf out of her book by frustrating the unfortunate Simply Sooty yet again.

With the form of the Queen Mary Stakes standing up so well — the second and third were placed in the Cherry Hinton Stakes at Newmarket

— Lucky Parkes, who finished fifth at Royal Ascot after winning her first three races, should pick up the winning trail by landing the Westow Stakes at Thirsk.

At Newmarket this evening, Polonez Prima and Little Rousillon, who finished second and third respectively in the race won by Sahel at the July meeting, can pick up consolation prizes by landing the Kidsins Impey Trophy and the Antec International Handicap respectively.

Earlier, Spring is taken to show that she is likely to develop into a filly of group winning status, which befits her pedigree, by winning the King's Gap Stakes.

MANDARIN	THUNDER
2.00 Embankment.	2.00 Embankment.
2.35 Bustina.	2.35 Tahir.
3.10 Central City (nap).	3.45 Only Royale.
4.50 Royal Oaks.	4.20 Kinsale Park.
4.50 POKER CHIP (nap).	4.50 Prince Sobor.
5.20 Elcoping.	5.20 Elcoping.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.45 Only Royale.

GOING: GOOD
DRAW: 5F 34YD - 1M STRAIGHT, HIGH NUMBERS HAVE SLIGHT ADVANTAGE.

2.00 BIF ECHINGWELL MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O; £3,850; 6f 8yd) (15 runners)	
101 (8) 6 BOSTERIOUS 11 (M) E. P. (P) 5-0	102 (8) 11 ONLY ROYALE 11 (M) E. P. (P) 5-0
103 (8) 11 ONLY ROYALE 11 (M) E. P. (P) 5-0	104 (8) 11 ONLY ROYALE 11 (M) E. P. (P) 5-0
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3.45 BIRKDALE GROUP HANDICAP (3-Y-O fillies; £3,850; 1m 21 yd) (8 runners)	
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Norton and Pears win cup appeal

TRAINER Steve Norton and apprentice Ollie Pears against the disqualification of Mr Confusion from first place in the John Smith's Magnet Cup at York last Saturday.

The Jockey Club's disciplinary committee overturned the York stewards' decision to demote the horse for interfering with third-placed Steerforth, and cleared Pears of careless riding.

The original finishing order now stands, with Mr Confusion first, Tell No Lies second and Steerforth third.

The committee heard evidence from all the jockeys involved, including Mark Birch, who rode Tell No Lies, and Michael Roberts, who partnered Steerforth.

Norton's solicitor, Jeremy Richardson, said: "The committee decided there was interference but it was accidental and they reversed the placings. It means that Ollie Pears's caution no longer applies."

Pears said: "It's brilliant. I was very sick after we lost the race but I am very pleased for the horse, the owner and everyone at the stable."

Mr Confusion was demoted to third after he was found to have carried Steerforth left under pressure inside the final furlong with Pears holding his whip in his right hand.

Barnesley-based Norton, who missed the hearing because he is on holiday in Spain, had been highly critical of the stewards' verdict and Roberts's riding of Steerforth.

But Richardson added: "Michael Roberts could not have been fairer in the evidence he gave both at York and here today. I would like to stress that, because he has been subjected to a lot of adverse criticism."

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141: NIGHT MARE 11 (M) E. P. (P)

West Indies fast bowler nears peak form and fitness

Bishop sweeps through dispirited Hampshire

By RICHARD STREETON

PORTSMOUTH (final day of three): Derbyshire (24pts) beat Hampshire (21) by an innings and 135 runs

DEVASTATING fast bowling by Ian Bishop enabled Derbyshire to complete an emphatic win yesterday with dispirited ease. Bishop finished with seven for 34, the best figures of his career, as Hampshire's last nine wickets fell in just under two and a half hours to leave their championship hopes badly dented.

There was no resistance apart from a seventh wicket stand of 64 in 22 overs, between Nicholas and Parks, as Hampshire crashed to their third championship defeat in their last four matches. They looked a thoroughly dispirited side after being outplayed

COUNTY TABLE									
	P	W	L	D	CR	SR	PP	PP	PP
Derbyshire	12	6	3	3	37	33	185		
Hampshire	12	4	3	5	28	29	125		
Nottinghamshire	12	4	3	5	28	29	125		
Derbyshire	12	4	3	5	28	29	125		
Derbyshire	12	4	3	5	28	29	125		
Derbyshire	12	4	3	5	28	29	125		
Derbyshire	12	4	3	5	28	29	125		
Derbyshire	12	4	3	5	28	29	125		
Derbyshire	12	4	3	5	28	29	125		
Derbyshire	12	4	3	5	28	29	125		

(1991 positions in brackets)

throughout. It was Derbyshire's fourth championship win of the season.

Bishop would probably have troubled any side in this form as he consistently bowled at his fastest and most hostile. He regularly obtained high

bounce from an easy-paced pitch on which Peter Bowler had made 241 the previous day. Bishop's success confirmed his recovery after the back operation that forced him to miss the World Cup. It also underlined the threat he will be — in harness with Ambrose — when he returns to Test match play this winter in Australia.

Bishop believes he still has some way to go before reaching his peak again but admitted later that this success would be a boost to his confidence. His previous best bowling was six for 39 for the West Indians against Kent in 1988 and in the championship, six for 67 against Leicestershire a year later.

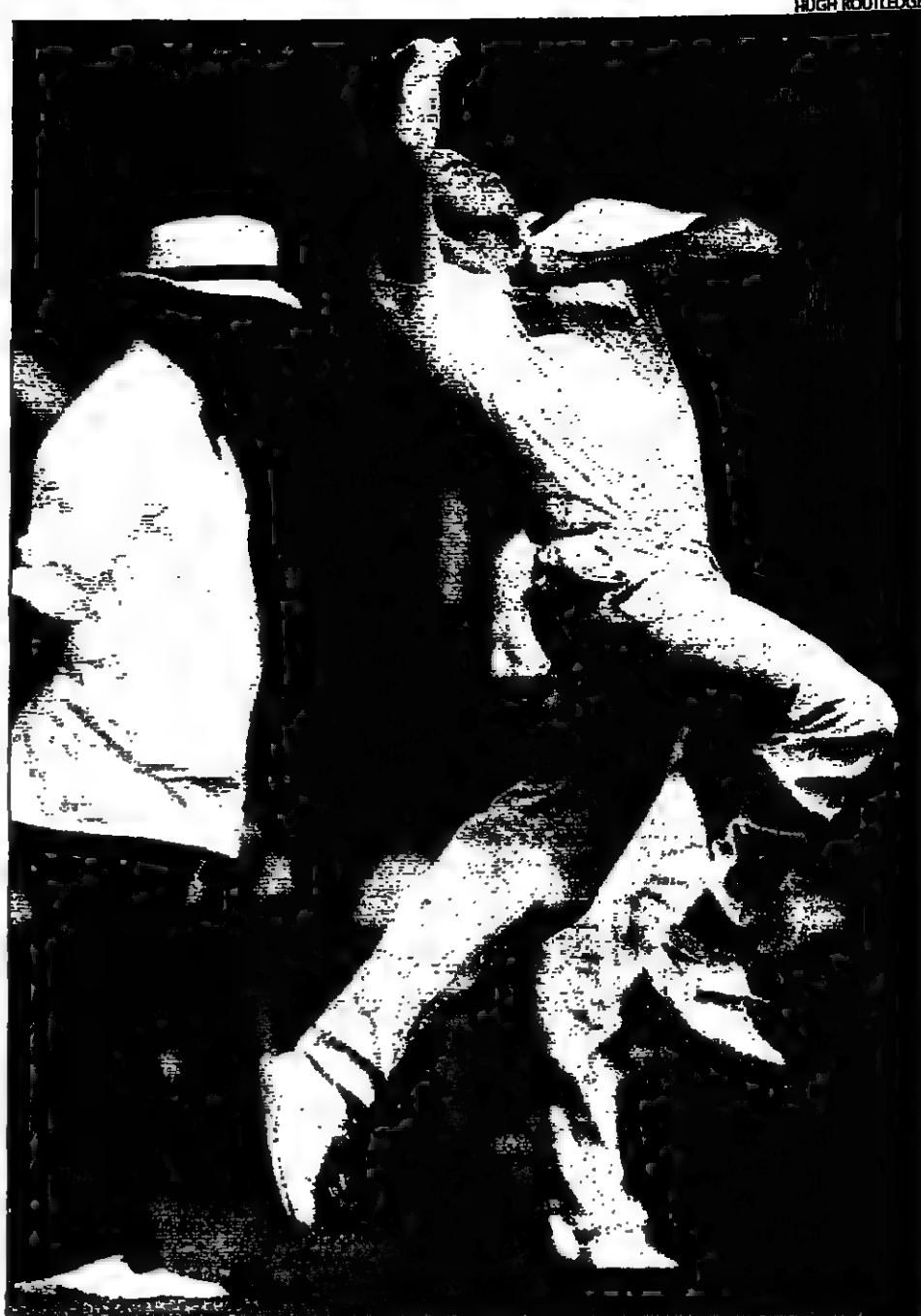
A rapid finish was inevitable when Hampshire lost five wickets in the first 45 minutes, four of them to Bishop in 28 balls. Hampshire's collapse

began when Gower was dismissed in the day's second over. Gower drove loosely outside the off stump against Bishop and was caught behind. Mortensen had Smith held in the same place as he tried to square cut before Bishop claimed Middleton, James and Marshall in six balls.

Middleton and James were leg-before to consecutive balls, both full tosses that landed on the boot. Bishop spared Marshall nothing and quickly had him held at third slip from a lifting ball as Marshall pushed forward despairingly. Inevitably the pressure eased when Bishop went off with figures of four for 15 in seven overs. Nicholas and Parks attempted nothing against balls that could be left alone. Malcolm looked tame by comparison with Bishop and Cork unsuccessfully tried to bowl too fast.

Nicholas, though, was fortunate at 21, with the score 123, to be missed at second slip by Cork off Mortensen. Derbyshire were also convinced that Krikken had held a leg-side catch by Nicholas off Cork just before lunch.

After the interval, Bishop returned and took two more wickets in successive overs. Parks dabbed his first ball to third slip and Udal fell to a good, diving catch down the leg side by Krikken. Warner then had Nicholas leg-before as he tried to work a ball to the leg side and followed — by bowling Shine.



Launch pad: Four more wickets for Martin Bicknell yesterday at Guildford

Leatherdale claims centre stage

WORCESTERSHIRE could have been forgiven for being disappointed at their victory over Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge yesterday when their three leading batsmen — Curtis, Hick and Moody — were dismissed in the space of five balls with only one run on the board (Geoffrey Wheeler writes).

A target of 259 looked a distant one, but remarkably, it was achieved with five

wickets to spare as David Leatherdale made only his second century in five seasons and Neal Radford scored an unbeaten 73, his highest for the county. They added 110 for the fifth wicket.

Essex increased their lead at the head of the table to 37 points by beating Gloucestershire by four wickets at Southend, Mark Waugh leading them to their goal of 335 by scoring an unbeaten 125 from

only 110 balls. Even Waugh was unable to slow him. Foster, although unfit to bowl, made 40 as 116 were added for the sixth wicket in 16 overs.

Although Phil Carrick took his 1,000th wicket for Yorkshire, on his fortieth birthday, Warwickshire beat them by three wickets at Sheffield. Northamptonshire's efforts to force a win over Middlesex at Uxbridge were foiled by a stubborn John Emburey.

Jones passes milestone

By PETER BALL

CHESTER-LE-STREET (final day of three): The Pakistanis beat Durham by 107 runs

DEAN Jones likes playing against Pakistan. In 1990 he scored a century in both innings for Australia against them at Adelaide. Yesterday he repeated the feat in rather more homely surroundings, in spite of batting for most of his second innings with a suspected broken finger after being hit by Wasim Akram early in his innings.

Although obviously in increasing pain, it did not deter him. Mushtaq was again put to the sword, Ata-ur-Rehman dismissed almost contemptuously, and Wasim taken on and conquered as hooks, cuts and drives flowed from his bat.

It was an innings worthy of setting records, and it did, the Australian becoming the first Durham player to pass 1,000 runs, and the first to score two centuries in a match.

But heroic as Jones's defiance was, it was in a losing

cause. With Botham nursing his chipped thumb, he found little support as Wasim and Waqar went about their work with ruthless efficiency to take the touring side to its seventh win in nine games against the Counties, and a step nearer winning the £50,000 Telford Bitter Challenge.

Jones made Pakistan work for it. It was his final appearance in the county before he returns to join the Australian squad to tour Sri Lanka.

After some soul-searching, Jones has decided to delay his return to Australia long enough to play in the NatWest Trophy quarter-final against Leicestershire, provided the weather is fine enough to allow a finish in one day.

He dismissed any thoughts of his finger preventing him from playing, and intends to play today. "Fast bowlers play with sore ankles, batsmen have to play with damaged hands," Jones said, after an innings he described as one of his best in first-class cricket. "Wasim and Waqar might

not have gone flat out in the first innings, but they were steaming in, there weren't many balls to drive," he added.

If the Pakistani bowlers were "Needled" on Wednesday, Larkins was very promptly "Waqar-ed" yesterday, yorked first ball by a very fast delivery.

Glendene somehow survived a torrid examination by the fast bowlers to keep Jones halting company for a stand of 128 in 25 overs, and at tea, Durham could still harbour thoughts of an unlikely victory.

Waqar's return after the interval promptly removed them. Glendene fell to a ball of full length, Parker, who never looked comfortable, was out hooking and Briers was trapped next ball.

Waqar had broken the back of the innings, taking four for 19 in two spells, and with no Botham, the Pakistanis were into the tail. After a stay of 123 balls, with two sixes and 13 fours, Jones fell to Wasim, and the end was inevitable.

Jung falls short of his century

AMIR Bin Jung, the outstanding performer in the European Cricketer Cup, provided a fitting finale to the competition yesterday as the Germans earned a three-wicket victory over France in the final (a Special Correspondent writes). Jung, who had already scored over 220 runs in his previous four innings, had struck ten fours and a six, when, just one short of what would have been the tournament's first century, he was clean bowled by Sultan Shahzada.

However, by the time he was out, Germany were already well on their way to victory after restricting the French to 174 for nine off their allotted overs. Shahzada, with 38, and Cijit Karunaratne, with 27, impressed but both were out to Sanjeev Taneja, who took four for 29 from five overs.

FINAL RESULT: Germany 177 to 7, France 174 for 9. Germany won by three wickets.

Hooper does it naturally

By JOHN WOODCOCK

GUILDFORD (final day of three): Kent (19pts) beat Surrey (8) by 72 runs

AFTER bowling Kent out in the second innings for 332, Surrey were left to make 149 to win in 43 overs at Guildford yesterday. Instead they were bowled out themselves for 76 in 36.2 overs, leaving Kent the improbable winners of what had developed into a thoroughly good match.

Having played the better cricket for two and a half days, Surrey will be very disappointed. It was not that they set about their second innings too casually or too confidently. With David Ward able to bat only under the handicap of a broken thumb, they would have known they could take nothing for granted. But of those most likely to see them home Stewart hit a long hop to long leg after he and Darren Bicknell had scored 28 in only five overs, and Lynch was run out by Benjamin, though by then the initiative was with Kent.

It was not the easiest of pitches, and Kent bowled properly and three good low catches by Trevor Ward and Fleming, 30 yards from the bat, made all the difference. Surrey still passed 50 in the fifteenth over, though, with only Stewart out. That Kent took nine wickets after that for 26 runs was cricketing opportunity at its best.

And even that would not have been possible but for a lovely innings by Carl Hooper. With the day still young Kent were only nine runs ahead in their second innings with the rest of their batting gone. But the bowlers gave their West Indian a helping hand, besides seeing him well past, what was, surprisingly only his 13th hundred in nine years of first-class cricket and 163 innings.

Several of Kent's other batsmen seemed besotted with the idea of "playing the line" which, to the uninitiated, makes it look as if they have played and missed, whereas in fact they have shaped a firm-

footed stroke inside the line of the ball so as to keep out of trouble. It is in no way an instinctive process. But Hooper, however, was splendid. His one big slice of luck was when he was 31 and Thorpe put him down at third slip off Benjamin. The ball passing through his upstretched hands.

It was a sharp chance but a crucial one. Hooper continued to play just as he had from the time he came in on Wednesday evening, nothing appearing to disconcert him. No helmet for him, no "playing inside the line". He is one of the great natural cricketers of the day.

Roger Harper, the West Indies Test player, scored 81 from 76 balls as the Rest of the World side crushed Wales by 213 runs in a 50 overs match yesterday at Christ College, Brecon. Sunil Gavaskar, with 48, and Mark Greatbatch's 68 helped take their score to 283 for six. The home batsmen were for 70 in 34.2 overs.

McEnroe bows to buoyant Bates

By BARRY WOOD

FIRST Wimbledon, now this. These are halcyon days if, Jeremy Bates and after yesterday defeating John McEnroe 6-2, 1-6, 6-4 in the second round of the Nations Bank Classic in Washington, the British No. 1 may be entitled to ask himself the fabled "what if" question.

Bates, who squandered a match point against Guy Forget for a quarter-final meeting with McEnroe at Wimbledon, described the victory, on a sticky humid evening, as one of the best of his career, but the outcome was in the balance until the very end. Indeed, Bates was down an early break in the final set and facing McEnroe's service at 3-4 before he had a sniff of a chance.

The match turned around at the last minute. He played very well in the second set and I got crunched, and until 4-3 I never even got close to breaking him," he said.

The opportunity came when McEnroe was disturbed by a line-out at 15-30 then Bates hit two service returns to level at 4-4. "I don't know if he tightened up or was a bit overconfident, but he eased off in that service game," Bates, who then broke again for victory when leading 5-4, said. It was the first time Bates had met McEnroe in a tournament.

To complete the tournament promoter's nightmare, the Wimbledon champion, Andre Agassi, lost 7-5, 6-4 to Kevin Curren.

Frankfurt: At the Federation Cup here, Germany, the top seeds, will play the United States, seeded sixth, in the semi-finals after overwhelming Poland.

Stefi Graf allowed Katarzyna Nowak just 15 points as she won 6-0, 6-0, and Anke Huber dropped just three games against Magdalena Mroczek. The Americans sealed their place at the expense of France by winning the deciding doubles.

A body to promote the interests of women players is being set up under the name of the European Players' Association.

Results, page 31

POLO

Forsyth settles the issue

By JOHN WATSON

THE semi-finals of the British Open championship for the Cowdrey Park Gold Cup were decided at Midhurst, Sussex, yesterday with an 11-9 victory for Black Bears against Tramontana and a 9-8 win for Santa Fe (received one) against Ellerton Black in extra-time.

The Black Bears opened the first duel's account and remained in the lead. Their cohesion is not so evident this season in Tramontana, who held the cup, and whose lynch-pin, Carlos Gracida, seems less happy with his team's composition.

Santa Fe's eight-goal New Zealand, Forsyth, scored his team's winner in extra-time from a melee.

The final will be at Cowdrey Park on Sunday afternoon. BLACK BEARS: 1, U. Schwanitz (1); 2, S. M. H. (1); 3, M. H. (1); 4, B. H. (1); 5, B. H. (1); 6, B. H. (1); 7, B. H. (1); 8, B. H. (1); 9, B. H. (1); 10, B. H. (1); 11, B. H. (1); 12, B. H. (1); 13, B. H. (1); 14, B. H. (1); 15, B. H. (1); 16, B. H. (1); 17, B. H. (1); 18, B. H. (1); 19, B. H. (1); 20, B. H. (1); 21, B. H. (1); 22, B. H. (1); 23, B. H. (1); 24, B. H. (1); 25, B. H. (1); 26, B. H. (1); 27, B. H. (1); 28, B. H. (1); 29, B. H. (1); 30, B. H. (1); 31, B. H. (1); 32, B. H. (1); 33, B. H. (1); 34, B. H. (1); 35, B. H. (1); 36, B. H. (1); 37, B. H. (1); 38, B. H. (1); 39, B. H. (1); 40, B. H. (1); 41, B. H. (1); 42, B. H. (1); 43, B. H. (1); 44, B. H. (1); 45, B. H. (1); 46, B. H. (1); 47, B. H. (1); 48, B. H. (1); 49, B. H. (1); 50, B. H. (1); 51, B. H. (1); 52, B. H. (1); 53, B. H. (1); 54, B. H. (1); 55, B. H. (1); 56, B. H. (1); 57, B. H. (1); 58, B. H. (1); 59, B. H. (1); 60, B. H. (1); 61, B. H. (1); 62, B. H. 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Woosnam declares his intentions

BY MITCHELL PLATTS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

Today: brighter after overnight rain, heavy at times. Showers expected during late afternoon and evening. Wind from south east 15mph, increasing to 25mph during late afternoon, with gusts up to 35mph.

Tomorrow and Sunday: brighter after overnight rain again. Becoming windy later on with strong southwesterly.



**THE OPEN
CHAMPIONSHIP**

Majestic Faldo, page 31
Photograph, page 31
Order of play, page 31

Sandy Lyle will be encouraged by his 68, as will Lee Trevino with a 69. Severiano Ballesteros, suffering from hay fever, made three birdies in the last seven holes for 70 with, among others, Paul Azinger, Fred Couples, Bernhard Langer and Tom Kite. Ian Baker-Finch, the defending champion, took 71. Tom Watson (72), John Daly (74), Jack Nicklaus (75) and Colin Montgomerie (76) were all the wrong side of par. Paul McGinley, who played in the Walker Cup last year, holed in one with a four-iron at the 7th in his first Open Championship as a professional.

Conducting his Open show: Woosnam urges on a putt during his opening round of 65 at Muirfield yesterday

Former champions out of luck

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

Watson, the champion 14 years later, went from two under par at the turn to two over and, like Nicklaus, could not disguise his deep disappointment after a round of 73.

One came at the first hole when he drove into a bunker and moved the ball just 10 yards into the next fairway trap.

He said: "I hit five bad shots

While those two former Muirfield heroes toiled, two others began encouragingly. Lee Trevino, who shattered Tony Jacklin in 1972, secured two birdies and a bogey to produce a consistent 69. The

Daily story, page 31

Janzen makes his mark for the family cat

The draw is meant to be random and Roc was certainly out in match 48 (of 51) in 1988 and match 50

"I'm going to that," Douglas said.

Eagle eye

Also purring is David Kirkwood, who is a member at Gullane and a steward at the first hole. He was on duty at entrance C yesterday morning when his highly trained golf collector's eye spotted a canvas bag full of hickory-shafted clubs. Using his authority (a rope, I think), Kirkwood stopped the bag's owner, a professional bag carrier or caddy known as Big Brian, saying,

"I'm going to that," Douglas said.

"Oh, that's nice. Are you playing?"

Stirring deeds by Lee

Lee, 26, could hardly believe it himself. He had survived a play-off in the regional competition at Orsett last week and another in the final qualifying at Dunbar on Monday. On

He was four under after nine holes, only two under after 11, and repaired that damage with a stunning eagle three at the 550 yards 17th before driving into a bunker at the home hole.

64: S Pate (US), R Floyd (US).
65: I Wooman, G Brand Jr (US).
66: L Jarzen (US), E Els (SA), N Faido, J Cook (US).
67: C Rocca (It), A Mages (US), P J Johansson (US), G Parry (Aus), O Vincent III (US), R Medlette (US).
68: J McGeorg (US), L Mize (US), D Lee, T Puritzer (US), A Lyte, S Elvington (US).
69: K Jones, W Andrade (US), M Calceciavola (US), B R Brown (US), D Waldron (US), L Wadkins (US), P Mitchell, N Lindblad (Swe), N Price (Zim), C Pavin (US), R Rafferty.
70: M James, G Turner (NZ), D Hammond (US), H Irwin (US), A

Forsbrand (Swe), D Galford, P
 Sauer (Aus), S Ballesteros (Sp),
 I Trevino (US), B Langer (Ger), P
 Lawrie, T Kite (US), D Miljovic
 (Can), F Couples (US), P Stewart
 (US), J Sluman (US), J-M
 Olazabal (Sp), R Cochran (US),
 G Norman (Aus).
 1 D W Besson (Sca), D Feherty, J
 Spence, M McNulty (Zim), J
 Mudd (US), * M Vages (US), M
 Brooks (US), W Riley (Aus), C
 Beck (US), I Baker-Finch (Aus),
 A Westcott, J Payne, G Player
 (Sca), R Rogers (Aus), R Tway
 (US), M O'Meara (US), R Davis
 (Aus), F Funk (US), G Evans, R
 Cochran (US).
 2 T Nakajima (Japan), C Stadler
 (US), M Harwood (Aus), J Rivera
 (Sp), J McHenry, W Guy, D

Smyth, R. Chapman, N. Briggs, P.
 O'Brien (Aus), S. Sherborne, J.
 M. Carls (Sp), M. Ozaki
 (Japan), M. Clayton (Aus), A.
 Johnstone (Zim).
 73: M. Moulard, R. Mackay (Aus),
 S. Torrance, A. Hare, I. Palmer
 (SA), D. Love III (US), B. Lane,
 W. Gray (Aus).
 74: P. Waddy, *S. Pullen, D. Eddiford,
 H. Clark, C. Strange (US), J. Daly
 (US), K. Waters, D. Williams,
 P. Moloney (Aus), M. Archer, J.
 Coocres (Arg), M. Sunesson
 (Aus), T. Westkopf (US),
 S. Anderson, S. Goller, Jr (US),
 M. Ozaki (Japan), K. Clearwater
 (US).
 75: K. Walker, J. Hobday,
 J. Nicklaus (US), G. Emerson, P.
 Price, J. Rystrom (Swe), P. Harri-

son, P Wesselingh, P
Broadhurst, K Trimble (Aus).
76: T Hamilton (Can), I Spencer, C
Montgomery, M Davis.
77: C Brooks, G Wolstenholme.
78: G Torbett, E Giraud (Fr).
79: C Post (Den), J Hay.
* *cerulea amarus*

Faldo favourite

Nick Faldo is 4-1 favourite with
William Hill to win the Open after
the first round.

Hills then offers 5-1 Wootnam,
10 Floyd, 16 Couples, Price, 20
Parry, Pete 25-1 Aizinger,
Langer, Lyle, Norman, Okazaki,
33 Brand Jr, Cook, Stewart.

Shortening the odds

Then Vincent hit four shots right and out of bounds; aimed left on an adjacent fairway with his next but from there put the ball through the green — out of bounds.

In stark contrast, he struck hardly a poor shot at Muirfield, where the longest putt he holed for any of his five rounds was one of eight feet.

Vincent qualified last year for the PGA European Tour but he has won only £4,900 from 15 tournaments. He is guaranteed a cheque for £3,200 if he survives the halfway cut.

"My father tried twice without success to qualify for the Open," he said. "I'm delighted to be up so high at this point, although I'll keep play-

Lancashire humbled by apprentice

By JACK BAILEY

SOUTHPORT (final day of three): Leicestershire (23pts) beat Lancashire (7) by eight runs

CHRISTOPHER Hawkes, a young slow left-arm bowler with only one match for Leicestershire before this and yet to take a wicket for his county, was tossed the ball yesterday more in desperation than hope. It seemed

Lancashire were in pursuit of 159 to win and had already made 99 for two. Ten overs from Hawkes, and Leicestershire had won an enthralling match by eight runs.

pace on this dry, dusty wicket and maintaining an impeccable length. Both were backed up magnificently in the field.

It is doubtful whether the umpires will mark the Trafalgar Road pitch highly. By the end there were places where the ball had gone through the

top. But it did produce a marvellous game of cricket which gave a good crowd more than good value.

It had after all been a good toss to win. Lancashire did well in the final innings, chiefly through the early efforts of Snee and Flower.

who went for their shots, to each a position of needing only 59 runs with eight wickets left. When, we wondered, was Hawkes going to be brought on? Everyone at the pier's disposal had been used but him, Hawkes must

The preference of Briers to ease pace and spin in tandem was justified in the end, but he was belted out by some fine catches, none better than that taken, high above his head, in the square leg boundary by Williams to get rid of Watkinson. Watkinson had been largely instrumental in launching a strong attack after the dinner

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Cards

Hawkes, aged 20, took four wickets for 18 as Lancashire lost their last eight wickets for 51. He had noble support from Parsons, the faithful old retainer, at the other end, who likewise finished with four wickets bowing his medium



HEALTH p5
Why can't we
cope in a
medical
emergency?

LIFE & TIMES

FRIDAY JULY 17 1992

MOTORING p7
The Reliant
returns
— and the Jag
claws back



Man of hope and glory

Richard Morrison on the up, down and up career of Andrew Davis, who tonight conducts the First Night of the Proms

Observe Andrew Davis in his element: a man born for the big occasion. Bearded face grins with exhilaration: baton swoops in confident arc. At his command, hundreds of musicians hurt out a mighty strain of Elgar. In a chaos of banners, streamers and general red-white-and-blue tomfoolery, this epitome of the English conductor stands purposeful and rock-like, as if master of all he surveys.

Which, in a sense, he is. As chief conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra, he has the plum job of launching the 98th season of Henry Wood Promenade Concerts at the Albert Hall tonight with a performance of Verdi's *Requiem* — and, in 65 concerts' time, of presiding over the Last Night and delivering his speech, with its slightly edgy jokes.

In between he will conduct his orchestra in three more Proms. And in one other Prom he will do his second hat, as Glyndebourne's music director, and conduct Tchaikovsky's opera *The Queen of Spades*.

So, at the age of 48, Davis stands at the pinnacle of British musical life. "I have a wife and child that I love, and the two best jobs in England," he says, with disarming simplicity.

At first glance, his route to bliss does look disarmingly simple. Clever Watford Grammar School boy, wins organ scholarship to King's College, Cambridge. Several thousand psalms, lessons and carols later, he turns his back on the worthy prospect of life in a cathedral organ loft, or of becoming a freelance harpsichord player in London, because he is bitten by the conducting bug.

It is the late 1960s: Cambridge graduates expect glittering prizes to come quickly. For Davis they do: in classic style he substitutes for an ailing elder in a Festival Hall concert, wins approval, and is

launched on a perhaps too-swift rise, conducting nearly every major American and British orchestra in an 18-month whirl.

"The curious thing is that when I first started I had such a fast ride to success that I didn't believe it," he now says. "Of course I enjoyed it. But there was part of me that said: 'This is a sham; you shouldn't be up here, you young whippersnapper'."

In 1974 the whippersnapper is offered the principal conductorship of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, a golden chance for a young man. Davis stays 13 years, sees the orchestra into its new hall, tours a lot of very cold places, and learns a stack of new repertoire. Toronto teaches him what it means to be a true music director.

But somehow his sweet progression to eminence starts to turn sour. His first marriage, to an English cellist, falls apart. "My wife married a harpsichord player who suddenly became a conductor and started to travel the world," he says. Back in England, "whizz-kid Andrew" has almost become "Andrew who?" Toronto, Davis discovers, is not exactly an orchestra wooed by record companies. And, when he does return to England, critics find him a bit routine. Simon Rattle is the new toast of the town.

More important, Davis feels uncertain about his art. "You have the confidence of youth to carry you through at first. Then comes the self-doubt. After all, conductors are dealing all the time with such an awe-inspiring body of work. How can one hope to be penetrating its depths at the age of 30? You lose the supreme confidence of a young man; but you haven't yet found anything else."

He leaves Toronto in 1987, and starts to rebuild his European reputation. It is not easy. After he accepts the music directorship of Glyndebourne in 1988 it becomes known that Rattle was given first refusal.



"The Prommers are actually the most attentive and quietest audience in the world. Of course, once you get into the patriotic stuff, forget it." Andrew Davis on the Last Night

Davis also becomes principal conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra. But this, too, has elements of a poisoned chalice. The BBC SO conductor may enjoy more rehearsal time than is common in London, but he is also expected to slog through difficult modern scores and often performs to tiny audiences in the Festival Hall. Or, less glamorous still, to no audience at all in the grim, grey-green world of Maida Vale One, the orchestra's recording studio.

The move to London ends Davis's second marriage, to an American double-bassist. His roly-poly bonhomie, even his characteristic blast of a laugh (a french horn at *fortissimo*), begin to seem like brittle defence mechanisms.

Then a kind of artistic rebirth occurs. Perhaps wounded pride spurs it on, perhaps the emotional stability provided by his third marriage and the birth of his son, Edward (named after Elgar, naturally). At Glyndebourne, he turns in performances — particularly of the

meaty late Romantics — that make the critics sit up. At the BBC he tackles fiendish modern scores with energy and authority. And to English music he brings a depth that would have been quite beyond the scope of the brash young man who had gone to Toronto.

He opens the 1991 Proms with Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*: it is a fascinating interpretation, the reading of a man who has tasted doubt as well as triumph, and can draw on both experiences. "It has a certain amount to do with being older, and with being more secure in my personal life and my profession," he says. "Now I think I deserve to be where I am. I'm not saying I'm the greatest conductor in the world, but I know what my strengths are, and I enjoy doing it. I've achieved some kind of inner tranquillity. It's called growing up."

Conductors, prone to god-like delusions, do not often admit to

having role models. Davis willingly names one, and it is a significant admission: Sir John Barbirolli. "He could make more of a moment of musical deliciousness than anybody else. You could feel the love for music coming out of his pores."

There is surely more to Davis's Barbirolli fascination than that. Like Davis, Barbirolli was also plucked unexpectedly across the Atlantic to a high-profile North American conducting job: with the New York Philharmonic, in Barbirolli's case. "That was not altogether a good experience for him," says Davis. "Then he came back to Manchester during the war, and made something marvelous out of the Hallé Orchestra at a very difficult period."

The parallel between the two conductors' careers is obvious, although Davis does not draw it. Barbirolli became the best-loved conductor in Britain through the humanity of his music-making and through his willingness to devote himself to an unfashionable ensem-

ble. Davis, too, recognises that music-making is not only about the technical and intellectual matters — or at least, it never has been in Britain. It is also a social activity, even at the highest level.

"Yes, I believe in having a good time. I think that we musicians are exceptionally fortunate in what we do: even when we are wrestling with the most horrendous contemporary score we still have a job that is challenging and creative. But don't get me wrong: I work the orchestra hard. I don't think a conductor should run through a piece once and then say goodbye, as one or two do."

The First Night looms. Davis admits he is intimidated by it. "But that's because I love big choral works: I don't think it's megalomania. The Prommers are actually the most attentive and quietest audience in the world; when you consider that there are sometimes 6,000 people jammed into that place. One can feel the intensity of their attention. And even on the

Last Night we can do some very quiet, beautiful Delius piece, and they will give you the silence of the grave. Even that maelstrom bunch. Of course, once you get into the patriotic stuff, forget it."

Does the "patriotic stuff" worry Davis? It worried his namesake, Sir Colin Davis, who renounced *Land of Hope and Glory* when he conducted the Last Night on the grounds that it was "snacking of Earl Haig's glory and sending millions to the slaughter."

Andrew Davis, a generation younger, takes a far less solemn view. "I don't believe that Britannia rules the waves, but the songs certainly don't offend me. It's a party; let's have fun."

© Valerie Grove is on holiday

TOMORROW

Will John Major really protect the beauties of the British hedgerow?

The pick of the Proms, a personal concert guide

From Bluebeard's Castle and a coronation in Venice to Rossini played with a swing

In the Fifties the ruthless George Szell turned the Cleveland Orchestra into a music machine of frightening precision. "He even rehearsed the inspiration," said his players. Christoph von Dohnányi, whose has been at the helm in Ohio for the past ten years, is a similarly tough-minded operator, and the orchestra retains its slightly chilling reputation for producing immaculate conceptions and taking its repertoire very seriously indeed. The first of its two Proms includes a new showpiece for virtuoso orchestra, written by the Austrian, Herbert Willi. July 24/25

Hungarian passion

In 1989, just days after Hungary declared itself a democracy, the young players of the Budapest Festival Orchestra, and their founder/conductor, Ivan Fischer played a storm of a concert in London: marvellously passionate, joyous and virtuosic. If ever music-making radiated hope and pride, this was it. Since then this nine-year-old ensemble has won golden opinions throughout Europe: here they perform Bartók's brooding *Duke Bluebeard's Castle*. July 28

Baroque pleasure

The beauty of reconstructing "Music from a Venetian Coronation, 1595, with fanfares, plainchant and organ music" (how could we manage without the plainchant?) is that nobody has much idea about exactly what would have been sung on such an occasion. This gives Paul McCreesh and his excellent Gabrieli Choir a useful excuse to perform



Star choice: (from the left) Anne-Sophie Mutter, Kate Westbrook, Evelyn Glennie



some of the most spectacular multi-choir works by the great Venetian organists Andrea and Giovanni Gabrieli. July 30

Ivory powers

Nikolai Demidenko was the best-kept secret in music: a pianist who harnessed rampant keyboard powers to subtle musical insights. The combination is rare, perhaps that is why Demidenko (Russian born, London domiciled) languished when less talented colleagues were showered with hyperbole. His Prom debut, playing Rachmaninov's Fourth Piano Concerto, could launch his delayed stardom. August 6

Tartan triumphant

Scottish music-making is in a golden age, thanks largely to the people appearing here. The Scottish Chamber Orchestra has pioneered wonderful educational schemes and championed a rising generation of unstuffy and articulate young Scottish composers such as James MacMillan. Evelyn Glennie is the remarkable percussionist, profoundly deaf since the age of 12, who has inspired composers around the world to

write pieces for her. MacMillan's new percussion concerto, to be premiered by Glennie and the SCO, is called *Veni, veni Emmanuel* — a reference to the ancient Advent hymn. August 10

Gargantuan night

Heroic music — orchestral chunks from *Götterdämmerung* and other strenuous Wagner operas — calls for a hero's interpretation. They do not come much more heroic than Klaus Tennstedt, the German conductor who has overcome prolonged illness and shattering career reversals, and whose emotionally charged performances of Beethoven, Mahler and Wagner with the London Philharmonic seem to preclaim his hard-won victories with every bar. August 20

Jazzing the classics

Rossini bicentenary celebrations can go disastrously wrong — but let us not intrude upon the Royal Opera's private grief. Instead, consider what weird and wonderful hybrid we may expect when jazzers Mike and Kate Westbrook and their 20-piece band cross-fertilise with the 19th-century opera composer in this Prom devoted

to "Big Band Rossini". The Westbrooks are not the first to bridge the big divide between classical and jazz: the examples of Gershwin and Stravinsky should encourage the doubters. August 30

Fabulous fiddler

Not yet 30, Anne-Sophie Mutter dominates any discussion of present-day violin-playing. Her technique is phenomenal: her intelligence penetrating; her samina prodigious and her boldness startling. Only her emotional input is questioned. In London two years ago she played seven big concertos and seven chamber pieces in one week — including three concertos in one night. Does the lady in the strapless frocks have any faults? Some find her playing a bit too calculated. With the London Symphony Orchestra and Michael Tilson Thomas she plays Berg's Violin Concerto. September 4

Eternal values

Lasting over 80 minutes, Bruckner's massive Eighth Symphony is not a work that appeals to the intellectual toddlers who want concerts to be parades of instant sound-bites. It is music conceived on the

grandest scale: the conductor who peaks too early is like the marathon runner who starts sprinting with ten miles to go. At the age of 80, Günter Wand knows a thing or two about pacing; expect his performance with the BBC Symphony Orchestra to be masterfully controlled. September 5

Deep gloom

In a famous Prom about 20 years ago Boris Christoff held a packed Albert Hall spellbound by singing what seemed like every great death scene in Russian opera (it was probably only two). Now Britain has a bass worthy of comparison with the great Bulgarian: he is John Tomlinson, who repeats here his mesmerising performance in the title role in *Boris Godunov*. Accompanying him are the Opera North forces that staged Mussorgsky's epic so successfully earlier this season. September 8

Ne plus ultra

Two Proms by the Vienna Philharmonic, 150 years old this year, add special lustre to the final week. If you must choose between Claudio Abbado's Haydn/Mahler programme and Pierre Boulez's concert of Stravinsky, Debussy, Boulez and Bartók, be brave and pick the latter. September 10/11

Last Night

Dame Kiri Te Kanawa will of course do a wonderfully tasteful job on *Rule, Britannia!*. I just wish she hadn't worn that Union Jack waistcoat on the cover of *Radio Times*. Earlier, the wail of the bagpipe will be heard — oh yes, certainly heard — in Sir Peter Maxwell Davies's *An Orkney Wedding with Sunrise*, an uncharacteristically humble piece from a composer who, in his avant-garde days, caused a near riot at the Proms. September 12

R.M.

● All the Proms are at the Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (071-823 9999) and are also broadcast live on Radio 3.

At last, some news about pensions you can look forward to.

Today, and again tomorrow, the FT publishes the Quarterly Review of Personal Finance Summer

1992. It will cover unit and investment trusts, interest-only mortgages and Peps. Also, a special feature will look at the many types of personal pensions on offer and help you to decide which is the best for you.

Now, more than ever, it's required reading.

NOT A FINANCIAL ADVERTISING PROMOTION

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Galleries: Richard Cork on a challenging and disturbing London exhibition by the German artist Anselm Kiefer

Hope consigned to its deathbed

Visiting Anselm Kiefer's ominous installation at the Anthony d'Offay Gallery is uncannily akin to inspecting a deserted dormitory of the dead, illuminated by clinical strip-lighting more suited to a hospital than an exhibition space. The white-walled room is filled with rudimentary, metal-framed beds. Uninhabited and devoid even of pillows, they stir memories of the desolate asylum wards brought to light after the revolutions in Eastern Europe.

But Kiefer has no intention of reconstructing a particular institution. His aim is far wider and more difficult to pin down. Walking through the rows of beds, all covered with rumpled mattresses made of lead, we notice hand-written

'Kiefer rules out the prospect of regeneration in a world exhausted by hostilities'

strips of brown paper stapled above them. Each bears the name of a woman, and among the 27 inscribed, the most familiar point to a specific period: Madame Récamier, Charlotte Corday and Madame de Staël.

Does the installation deal, then, with the gruesome aftermath of the most bloody and turbulent episode in French history? Kiefer would seem to endorse such a view, by writing "Die Frauen der Revolution" in funeral black letters on the back wall. But nobody should imagine that the bed-lined chamber is replete with further references to nuns, guillotines or the assassination of Marat.

Unlike Jacques-Louis David, who painted the murdered revolutionary slumped in his bath, Kiefer shies away from ensuring that the beds refer directly to the women, he names. No martyred figures lie on them, as in David's glacial homage. Instead, the cavities sunk into each mattress contain pools of water, and a bucket under one bed catches the liquid as it soaks through.

This besmirching increases the air of decay, suggesting that the room has been exposed to rainfall through a dilapidated roof. The hollows also have a macabre quality, as if atrocities were committed on the mattresses before the removal of the corpses. On the whole, however, Kiefer resists the temptation to indulge in *Grand Guignol*. Although a pair of corpses lies abandoned, hinting at some terrible medical calamity, the wrinkled lead surfaces end up looking above all like despoiled landscapes.

In this respect, the installation

links up with Kiefer's earlier paintings of the German countryside, ravaged by decades of conflict. If the waterlogged beds refer most strongly to the crater-torn, mud-heavy terrain of the first world war, they cannot be limited to such references.

Around the corner of the room, Kiefer encourages us to think in larger terms. For here, on the end wall, a large sheet of lead supports a creased black-and-white photograph of a man in army greatcoat and boots. Walking along a track as puddle-strewn as the beds, he is reminiscent of the artist himself in Kiefer's early *Heroic Allegories*. The wire fencing beside him belongs to a military site of some kind. And Kiefer's shadowy presence appears to be meditating on the way that, even in peacetime, the country so often yields overtones of strife — either from the past or as a future threat.

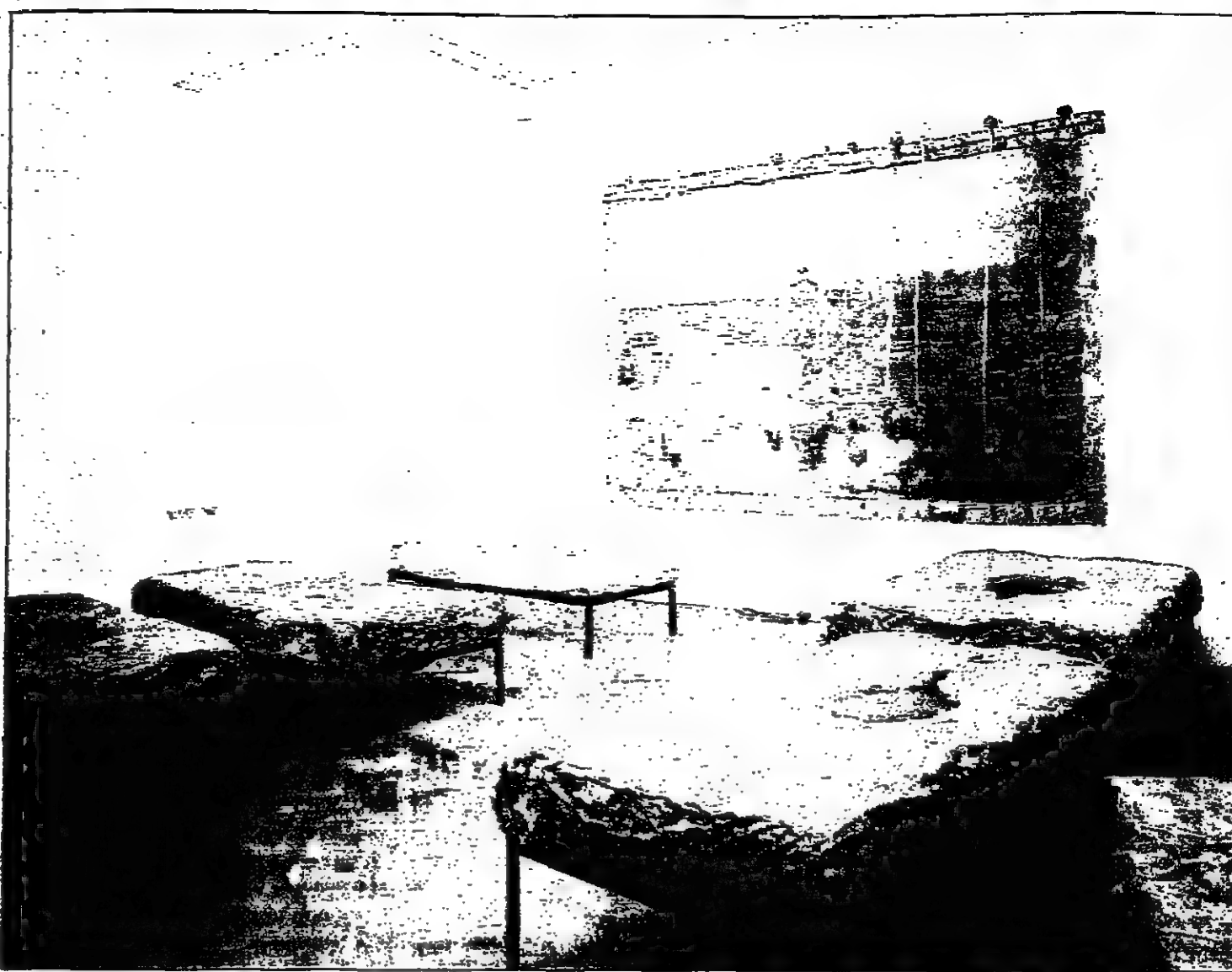
In order to reinforce the metaphor of a stricken earth, Kiefer has inverted nine dead sunflowers and hung them in front of the photograph. Their heads dangle near the water and mud in the foreground, as if to stress that there is no hope of plant-life ever springing renewed and upright from earth to sky. The equally lifeless flowers scattered across the mattresses and gallery floor, accompanied by occasional clods of earth with fragments of dolls embedded in them, seem to bear out this pessimistic conclusion.

As the end of the century approaches, Kiefer rules out the prospect of genuine regeneration in a European world exhausted by protracted and traumatic hostilities.

Why, therefore, did he place so much of the work's initial emphasis on the role of revolutionary women? The installation's title echoes a book called *Les Femmes de la Révolution*, by the eminent 19th-century French historian Jules Michelet, who highlighted the feminine contribution to the passionate idealism behind that great insurrection. But nothing is left of the vitality with which they once participated in a national upheaval. Even if the women live on in history, they have no presence here.

Now is the prospect of imminent resurrection held out in any area of the room. Destruction is the paramount theme wherever you look, and the hint of a concentration camp adds to the prevailing despair.

By showing himself striding away



A partial view of Anselm Kiefer's installation, *Die Frauen der Revolution*, at the Anthony d'Offay Gallery

in the photograph, Kiefer appears to be turning his back on all the hopes which revolution once aroused. The collapse of communism, far from giving grounds for optimism, only seems to have confirmed his belief in the inevitable demise of all insurgent causes. But the development of democratic alternatives arouses no discernible enthusiasm in Kiefer, who is bent on underlining his gloomy presentiments to an almost perverse degree. This unnerving chamber is not a place to linger in for very long. Its remorseless dwelling on futility and death makes it as repellent as a morgue.

Like the figure in the photograph, who insists on continuing to trudge across the wintry terrain, Kiefer is saddled with an imagination that never moves far away from this forlorn locale. In the upstairs d'Offay gallery, where some of his

recent paintings and sculpture are displayed, the landscape is equally bleak. One untitled picture is dominated by the form of a lead aeroplane with a bent propeller. Redolent of wartime again, the machine is mired in a dark and glutinous ground as cheerless as the countryside in the photograph.

Several paintings are filled, to the point of congestion, with dead foxgloves and delphiniums. Kiefer calls them *Evil Flowers* in one picture, and they threaten to obscure the ruined buildings which moulder behind them. The exact identity of these desolate structures is not disclosed, but their classical severity and grandeur allies them with the fascist architecture in so many of Kiefer's previous paintings.

Now, however, the desiccated flowers and leaves rob them of their former presence. They become little

more than a faded, intermittent backdrop for the palpable reality of the withered plants. And in the largest of the paintings, *Left wing, Right wing*, Kiefer's sardonic title implies that the buildings may just as easily be remnants of communist regimes. They have become as obsolescent as their Nazi counterparts, and the exterminated foxgloves ranged before them in a melancholy frieze indicate that the ground has been polluted beyond recall.

The entire exhibition proves that Kiefer remains an incurable memorialist. Everything he makes is imbued with an elegiac spirit, as though his art draws its fundamental impulse from a lacerating sense of loss. Is he also motivated by a fear that the negation he explores so indefatigably will one day affect his own capacity to invent? The ques-

tion is raised in an acute form by a sculpture enclosed in a glass container, from the top of which a twisted, ladder-like length of metal is suspended over dry, heaped clay. At some stage, this useless length of track might have been instrumental in mining the ground. But now it merely dangles, the victim perhaps of a bombing raid or the realisation that the once-fertile earth has become parched and barren.

The paradox is that Kiefer has an Eliot-like capacity to draw strength from the wasteland and feed off this all-pervasive sterility. His art is a perpetual warning never to forget the catastrophes of the past, and he shows no sign of relinquishing his role.

The exhibition is at Anthony d'Offay, 9, 21 and 23 Dering Street, London W1 (071-499 4100), Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-1pm, until July 24.

TELEVISION

Dawn's chorine

WHEN we are totally Euro-homogenised, Spanish breasts and buttocks — lightly attached to incomprehensible plots — will doubtless be appearing on network television in Britain most nights. So enjoy Channel 4's hilarious Spanish import, *Riders of the Dawn*, while such things are comparative novelties.

The breasts and buttocks mostly belong to Victoria Abril: nothing here that admirers of such saucy Pedro Almodóvar epics as *Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down!* won't have seen many times before. She plays Marian, the daughter of a hotel manager in a spa town during the years just before the Spanish Civil War.

But in this subtitled drama series, room is also found for cameo appearances by other unguilt loins: of the woman who owns the hotel, and her lesbian lover (Marian's mother). Also appearing, in various stages of undress, are the proprietor's lesbian lover's lover (a hermit, male, otherwise given to making lewd suggestions to his wooden Madonna); and the proprietor's toy-boy, who seduces Marian — or perhaps he was lurching off her neck. Note, too, the three young anti-fascist rebels. They have also removed all their clothes, apparently because they got wet in the rain.

What of the plot? Between the bouts of backstairs bonking, news of the worsening political climate is mostly conveyed by elderly hotel residents reading newspaper reports to each other.

Let us not forget the wild horses, however, galloping riderless through the dawn mists. Each time the horses appear, a character is able to utter a doom-laden aphorism: "The horses go in search of better pastures." "One day the horses will rise up." or "The next time they pass they will carry the Four Horsemen."

What we are dealing with here is heavy Spanish symbolism. It will not get any lighter as the weeks go by. For the hotel and its decadent owner, read Spain herself. For the wild horses, read the naked revolutionaries. You get the idea. Who will grasp the reins of power as Spain's stallions stampede towards the stable of Destiny? I sense that there is a lot more to be laid bare yet.

RICHARD MORRISON

GALLERIES: TRIBUTE EXHIBITION

Living on in the memory



The Lane at Beslyn's, looking towards the Garages, 1937, by Edward Bawden

Though Edward Bawden died three years ago, aged 86, Tribute to Edward Bawden at the Fine Art Society is the first memorial exhibition. One reason for this is no doubt that the Victoria and Albert retrospective just before his death was clearly a sort of lifetime achievement award. But another must be that Bawden went on working, and pulling surprises right up to the end: even today it is difficult to close the book and consign him definitively to the past.

The continuing presence of Bawden is a theme of the show. It is partly a summary of his amazingly varied achievement, but it is also a personal tribute by friends and associates to the man and his lasting influence. A few of the artists who appear in this show come from something like Bawden's own generation, among them Carol Weight, Michael Rothenstein, and even Leonard Rosoman, a young whipper-snapper of 79 whose new picture, *Peyton Skipworth*, and *Edward Bawden* represents the man by his work in the actual interior of the Fine Art Society.

But most of the living artists shown are up to half a century younger than Bawden. And

A show of and for Edward Bawden, reviewed by John Russell Taylor

there seems to be nothing incongruous in their working today in a style which, if it does not imitate Bawden's own, at least emulates it in the most lively and flattering way. Bawden, though never exactly avant-garde, was in his own fashion an innovator. It was the fashion of the eccentric individual who sees things in his own way, without reference to trends and fashions, and willy-nilly develops his own style of expression.

In the previous generation Stanley Spencer was the great exemplar of this approach; his originality has been recognised because he was obtrusive about his own peculiarity. Bawden, on the other hand, was quiet about his: like all true eccentrics he could not see that he was eccentric at all. And for someone so wrapped in his own cocoon, he was amazingly capable of dealing with the world outside: this show is full

of examples of his successful industrial design, in the form of wallpapers, tiles for London Transport, advertising and commercial art.

The important thing about Bawden's style is that it is timeless. Nowadays, it fits comfortably into a vaguely heritage contest, but it is not confined to that. His particular hallmark was an intense strength of line, which went with a bold simplification of form, sometimes to the point of seeming almost naive.

While still at art school he gathered round him a group of like-minded students, among them Eric Ravilious (whose splendid portrait of Bawden painting is included here) and Douglas Percy Bliss, both of whom were influenced by him.

Later, when he settled at Great Bardfield, in Essex, he became the centre of a regional group which included Michael Rothenstein, Edwin Smith and Olive Cook, Kenneth Rowntree and his own son Richard Bawden, whose death study of Edward here touchingly matches Edward's own death study of his father 37 years earlier.

● Fine Art Society, 148 New Bond Street, W1 (071-629 5116), until July 31

CRITIC'S CHOICE

● **REDISCOVERING POMPEII:** The Accademia Italiana's tribute to Pompeii's fly-in-amber quality has proved so phenomenally successful with the public that its run has been extended. A compelling mixture of modern technology and old-fashioned exhibition technique, showing the objects off to their best advantage in eye-catching installations.

Accademia Italiana, 24 Rutland Gate, SW7 (071-225 3474) daily 10am-6pm (Wed to 8pm) until August 2. Admission £5, concessions £2.50.

● **FRESH ART:** An art fair devoted exclusively to the work of recent graduates for BA and MA courses in fine art all over the country. This year each of the 40 colleges taking part has its own stand. There are some shared events, including a "video box" in which 12 monitors display artists' videos and a competition for wall-works on the theme of "Communication". Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, N1 (071-359 3535), Mon-Sat, 11am-6pm, until Aug 1.

● **ANNETTE MESSENGER:** Messenger's extraordinary compilations are conceptual and probably also feminist art, since she belongs to the group which embraces knitting and sewing as "women's art" rather than rejecting them as imposed by men. But if all this sounds rather intimidating, the results are often light and funny, sometimes gently nostalgic, and sometimes agreeably sinister.

Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, NW3 (071-435 2643) Tues-Thurs noon-8pm, Fri-Sun noon-6pm, until August 30.

● **CITY OF OBJECTS — MESSAGES ON BERLIN:** Now that the Wall has gone, what should be built on the flattened no-man's land left in its wake? Will Alsop's ideas for a renewed Potsdamer Platz and Leipziger Platz took fourth place in an international competition, and are displayed in paintings by himself and Bruce McLean, plans and architectural drawings. RIBA, 66 Portland Place, W1 (071-580 5533), Mon-Fri, 10am-5.30pm, Sat, 10am-1pm, until July 24.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

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Opposite Standard Pub
081 501 4123
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061 839 4439
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Beside A140/A143, Nr Rail Xing
0574 783413

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0727 838588
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Grove Road,
Opposite Main P. O.
081 643 3242
SWISS COTTAGE
Finchley Road,
Near to Boots
071 723 7810
WEYBRIDGE
66/68 Church Street,
Near St. James Church
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French pop rarely makes the charts in Britain — but France attracts some of the world's top talent. **Clare Longrigg** on who is playing where this summer



FRENCH rock has never quite succeeded in crossing the Channel, let alone the Atlantic. A punk group called Téléphone made a brief appearance over here in the 1970s, but French punks were much too stylish and could never summon enough rebellion to spit convincingly. Johnny Halliday is still the only French rock star the British can name, but would they admit to owning one of his records?

Rejected wholesale by the United States' rock market, and even struggling to get on to the eminently European MTV video station, French musicians have retreated to traditional folk roots. We are not talking about the accordion here. France has attracted the finest musicians from all over the Franco-phone world, in particular from North and West Africa, and following them, the pre-eminent players of world music.

The French like their pop music easy and uncomplicated. This is not the case for jazz, however. France imports quantities of the finest jazz, fusion and blues talent. Most of the big stadium rock shows are over for the summer, leaving room for a lot of high calibre, if not high volume, gatherings.

Grande Parade du Jazz, Nice
July 18: Youssou N'Dour, Joe Zawinul Syndicate and Salif Keita
July 19: Mory Kanté, Youssou N'Dour, Wynon Marsalis, Angelique Kidjo
July 20: Wynon Marsalis, Dee Dee Bridgewater
July 21: BB King
For a terrible moment, Senegalese superstar Youssou N'Dour left his traditional settings, piercing vocals and breathtaking percussion, to be smoothed and packaged by Peter Gabriel. He now sings in English, but has recovered his balance with a finely tuned, commercial African sound. Angelique Kidjo from Benin has done likewise, making waves on the London dance scene with her hugely energetic pop/funk and African rhythms. Among jazz heavyweights in Nice is BB King, blues man with a quasi-religious following. The setting is great, towering over the town among Roman ruins and a waterfall. Jazz on three stages from 6pm to midnight.
Tickets: FF150 per evening.
Contact/venue: Jardins des Arènes de Cimiez, Nice (93 71 89 60).

Tamaris rock festival, Brittany
July 18: The Cramps, MC Solaar, Linton Kwezi Johnson, James PJ Harvey, Bernard Allison, Fishbone, Massilia Sound System, Thousand Yard Stare
An extraordinary mixture of acts, including dub poet Johnson, who has recently revived his protest songs after a long but thoughtful silence; wild American horror show The Cramps, whose pre-punk cult following has earned a few movie cameos for the wonderfully named Lux Interior, and James, mild Mancunians of indie pop. The later additions to this compendium of Anglo rock are hard-edged songstress PJ Harvey and Thousand Yard Stare, harmless, derivative London indie pop.
Tickets: FF190 at the gate.
Contact/venue: L'Orée du Bois, Morlaix, near Roscoff, Brittany (98 88 74 26).

Aix en musique, Aix-en-Provence
July 18, 22, 27: *Midsummer Night's Dream* by Benjamin Britten, with James Bowman
July 20, 25, 28, 30: *The Rake's Progress* by Stravinsky
July 21, 24, 26, 29, 31: *Don Giovanni* by Mozart, with Andreas Schmidt as the Don.
Mozart's Prague Symphony and Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, Vi-Valdi and Schubert and other old favourites fill the gaps between operas in a highly enjoyable, challenge-free programme. Britten's *Dream* was so popular last year they have brought it back for a second run.
Tickets: FF90.
Contact/venue: Théâtre de l'Archevêché, Aix-en-Provence (42 21 69 69).

Festival de la Côte d'Opale, Nord Pas-de-Calais
July 18: Inlandia, John Mc-



Still potent after all these years: the veteran American guitarist, Buddy Guy, headlines at the Festival de la Côte d'Opale *nuît des blues* next weekend.

Rock across the channel

Laughlin
July 21: Marie-Catherine Honvault and Pascal Gaillard, Jacques Perry, Elisabeth Boulanger, Soeur Marie Keyrouz
July 23: Nilda Fernandez, Donovan
July 24: Alex Metayer
July 25: *Nuit des Blues*: Calvin Russell, Buddy Guy
July 26: William Sheller and the national orchestra of Lille.
John McLaughlin plays classical music on jazz guitar. Remarkable to see Donovan, still live after all these years. Buddy Guy, the American blues veteran with a voice that can still raise the hairs on the back of the neck after 40 years, has a touch of the James Brown's on stage, but his virtuosity is more than equal to the pomp and stomp. The rare, powerful voices of Nilda Fernandez and the Lebanese Soeur Marie Keyrouz are definitely worth the trip.
Tickets: FF80-120 (FF60-100 concessions, FF300 for four shows, FF600 for all shows).
Contact: 26 rue Ernest Hamy, Boulogne-sur-Mer (21 30 40 33).

Le Suquet, near Cannes Alpes Maritimes
July 18: soprano Wilhemina Fernandez sings Schubert and Strauss, Berg, Copland.
July 22-23: pianist Gabriel Tacchino, the festival host, plays Saint-Saëns, Chausson, Bizet, Rossini and Dvorák.
Highlights of a festival which runs to July 27, starring the glorious voice of Diva star Fernandez, including chamber music and orchestras from France and Italy.
Tickets from FF120.
Contact: (92 99 31 08).

Place au jazz, Montpellier
July 20: A Tribute to Miles Davis — Wayne Shorter, Herbie Hancock
July 21: Salif Keita: Joe Zawinul Syndicate
World class musicians meet in the university city. Mali's prince of music, Salif Keita, whose powerful, soaring voice stunned Britain in his album *Soro*, further distinguished himself by recording an album with Miles Davis. More of Davis' students pay tribute.
Tickets: FF150 on July 20, FF120 on July 21.
Contact/venue: Prades-les-Lez, near Montpellier (67 59 66 54).

Jazz à Juan, Côte d'Azur
July 20: Ray Charles
July 21: John McLaughlin, A Tribute to Miles Davis — Wayne Shorter, Herbie Hancock
July 22: Sonny Rollins



Also making an appearance: Wilhemina Fernandez, Poison Ivy of the Cramps and Ray Charles

July 25: In Memory of Miles
The Keith Jarrett trio
July 27: Joe Cocker
One of the legendary soul stirrers on the summer circuit, Ray Charles still has a vast popular following, proving that old legends do not die, they make commercials. Miles Davis' one time (although at different times) students and collaborators continue their tour: Keith Jarrett on the piano, with Gary Peacock and Jack de Johnette.
Tickets: FF165-225.
Contact/venue: La Pinède Goulde, Juan les Pins (93 61 04 98).

World Music in Paris
July 21-23: Fanfares Indiennes
July 24-26: Drummers of Burundi
Free concerts by brilliant traditional musicians — horns from India and the spectacular, breathtaking drummers. All concerts 6pm in the



Jardin de Luxembourg
July 21-25: Mahabarrata, traditional Indian music, siars, the works. Location to be announced, tickets from FF70.
Contact: (40 28 40 33).

Rock in the arena at Nîmes
July 21: New Orleans Revue — Willy De Ville, Zachary Richard, Eddie Bo, Wild Magnolias, Joe Cocker
The Roman amphitheatre is a dramatic venue for this hearty hoo-down in the name of nostalgia, including Dr John, flushed with the success of his new album *Goin' Back to New Orleans*. Respectable jazz with De Ville's Spanish-style rhythm and blues to hot things up.
Tickets: FF170.
Contact: (66 67 28 02).

Classical music in the arena at Nîmes
August 1: Verdi's *Requiem*, the



Paris choir and orchestra conducted by Jerzy Semkow
Tickets: From FF50 at 10pm.
Contact for both events: The Arena, Nîmes (66 67 28 02).

Fête le mur, Blaye, Gironde
July 24: Straw Dogs, Swervedriver, Gilles Tandy, Jad Who
July 25: Ned's Atomic Dustbin, Mega City Four, Therapy
The wild guitars of Ned's Atomic Dustbin from Birmingham, will face little competition from the French half of this poppy festival. A lot of noise to be had by all.
Tickets: FF100 per day, FF150 both days.
Contact/venue: The Citadel, Blaye (57 64 90 90).

Aigüillon Festival, Lot-et-Garonne
July 30: Mami Dibango
July 31: Chick Corea
August 1: Phil Woods and Saxomania
August 2: Richard Galliano and Ron Carter, Eddy Louiss quintet

Rustic France at the movies. By day, jamming in the woods with wholesome types on acoustic guitars and yes, accordions. Don't let anyone tell you this is how musicians really want to live. Mami Dibango, statesman of African music, joins the statesmen of jazz. Tickets: FF3,000 for eight days with lodging and half board.
Contact/venue: Château des Ducs, Aigüillon, Lot-et-Garonne (53 79 60 12).

One Love Festival, Paris
August 2: Julian Marley, Aswad, Andrew Tosh, Third World, Omar Reggae, rap, raggamuffin from the

Paris choir and orchestra conducted by Jerzy Semkow
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second generation of major league Jamaican reggae and roots. Marley and Tosh. Aswad's statuesque stage presence makes up for the banality of their politicised reggae pop.
Tickets: FF160.
Contact/venue: Hippodrome de Vincennes (40 09 10 12).

Festival Interceltique de Lorient, Brittany
August 10: Murray Head
August 13: Oyster Band
August 14: Sons of the Desert
August 16: Erik Marchand Trio
Reunion of western celtic: a kind of meet the folk week. A huge number of bands on themed nights (Nuit des Cornemuses, La Passion Celtique, you get the idea) embroidery, cooking, kite-making, bagpipes and folk songs. After failing to find a niche in the British market, Anglo-Irish band Sons of the Desert is taking its hotch-potch of blues, rock and folk to the Continent to seek its fortune. Oyster Band has the same crossover of rock and folk.
Tickets: FF120 for main shows (FF100 concessions), others from FF30.
Contact: (97 21 24 29).

Times Rock, Amnecy, the Alps
August 14: FFF, Litiba, Axel Wallies, Geoffrey Oryema, Axel Bauer, Kent
August 15: Murray Head, Jack Bon, Marc Minelli, Les Innocents, Alain Ortega, Calvin Russell
An Amnesty International benefit. Oryema, one of the few important artists to emerge from Uganda, is now living in Paris. A stirring, political vocalist. Free camping.
Tickets: FF140 per day, both days FF230.
Contact/venue: Le Sermoz, Amnecy (50 52 79 35).

Festival international de musique dans la rue, Uzès
August 19-21: Itaru Oki, Philippe Gassell, Roger Abaji, Juan Camarona, Yanza, Lola Muzance, Kotela
Jazz, rhythm 'n' blues, flamenco, rock, classical and acoustic playing all over the small town of Uzès from 9pm to 1am every night, all free.
Contact: (66 22 79 21).

Fêtes de la mer, St-Nazaire
August 21: Linton Kwezi Johnson, Li Stichele, Subize
August 22: Boukman Eksperians, Ounga Neges
August 23: Francisco Ulioa
Roving world music festival which this year lights on the Caribbean, with powerful dub-poetry from Jamaica (via the UK), vanguard rock from Haiti and merengue from Dominica's Francisco Ulioa. Very good value.
Tickets: FF25 per day, FF60 for three days.
Contact: (40 53 03 75).

Festival Frog and Roll 92, Lillers, Nord pas-de-Calais
August 28: The Troggs, The Pretty Things, Jim McCarthy Blues Band, Mick Clarke Band
August 29: Stiff Little Fingers, Eddie and the Hot Rods, Molodot, Creepy Crawly Boys
Truly eclectic The Troggs, leftovers from 60s psychedelia, are staging a less-than-resounding comeback. Stiff Little Fingers have got older, but luckily no wiser: isn't it kind of sad to see one-hit wonder Eddie and the Hot Rods are still on the road? French punk revival will be worth witnessing, as they were all pretty soft in the first place.
Tickets: FF130 per day, both days FF220.
Contact: Lillers (21 64 07 65).

● To telephone France from the UK ring 010 33 and for Paris 010 331

The French properties of the week column, written by Cheryl Taylor, will return next week with what you can buy for £35.00-£38.00.

TOMORROW

In Weekend Times: Win a luxury weekend for two in a beautiful château at the heart of the Médoc and a case of vintage wines

Lesson 1: the French know best



FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Most student encounters with France are fleeting, and protected within a school group. But they are vivid, at least according to the many people who responded to my appeal for readers' first impressions of life across the Channel. Stephen Smoczyński still keeps his St Christopher souvenir on his keyring from a 1969 day trip to Boulogne. "Waiting for the return ferry, I repressed an impulse to jump aboard the Paris train." Even though their geography teacher's main instruction was "not to come back to the ferry dead drunk", the atmosphere had ravished him. Especially a French family lounging on their cabin cruiser, daughter in swimsuit "and father in a Sergeant Pepper moustache swinging gin from the bottle. I thought, you don't see that at Bray Lock!"

Margaret Cox, from Bexleyheath, found herself shouted at by boys in the street. "We looked up the one word we caught. To our horror and delight it meant 'highly'. Good God, what else had we missed? ... when I got back I realised I was hooked on France for ever."

Others brave a full term's exchange or longer, and are plunged entirely into French school life, winning a lifelong understanding far deeper than any holidaymaker could expect. Sometimes at a price. The award for most hair-raising experiences must go to Pat Walker, who in 1924, at the age of nine, went to a Lycée de Jeunes Filles in Normandy, whose counterpart, she tartly observes, could be found "in any English slum". All the other children had wooden clogs over plaided straw slippers, and she had Daniel Neal lace-ups. Most oddities she took in her stride, as nine-year-olds will. "I learned to play horseshoot, that Le Bon Roi Dagobert was a real person, and quickly changed from duodecimal to metric maths." A few things alarmed her, particularly the lavatories. "After finding that they were perpetually bunged up and had

non-flushing bowls I asked if I could use the headmistress's lavatory." Likewise the sewing lessons, where "everyone took off their thick, sweaty stockings and handed them to their neighbours for mending", appalled her. But she gamely fitted in, even kissing the ring of the Bishop of Rennes.

The French passion for rote-learning started a good few correspondents. The Bendall family of Cambridge spent nine months at a French school in the 1970s. The nine and 12-year-old girls went, their mother recalls, "by Metro, with their cartables on their backs... every evening we all worked at the *devoirs*". By the end of it they all, including parents, knew numerous mathematical formulae in French. Their mother also remembers France's obsession with its own geography: the children had to learn the numbers and *chefs-lieux* and *sous-préfectures* (smaller towns) of every local authority *département*. "How many English children could reel off the names of all our counties?"

But educational differences seem to have mattered little down the decades, next to the great and

mysterious cultural gap. Tom Denne, in a French school in the 1960s, found "mild distaste and great fascination" in the French boy's sport of catching May-bugs and fixing streamers of lavatory paper to them. But a few days later one of the English boys stole some money, and the group held a formal council and decided to cane the culprit, one stroke each. "A bamboo stick was found," writes Mr Denne, "and the sentence carried out before breakfast. Afterwards all eight of us shook hands." The French boys watching expressed, in turn "mild distaste and great fascination".

Many a hapless English schoolchild on an Easter term exchange has walked down the street on April 1 with the traditional foil *poisson d'avril* stuck risibly to their back with a burr. Many girls have gaped in affront at the French nunly habit of reading personal letters and chaperoning male teachers in class. Yet Patricia Taylor, on the feast day of St Catherine the patroness of unmarried girls, found herself at her convent school "utterly shocked to see, though a haze of smoke, Mere de Bazelaire with a packet of



cigarettes and a box of matches, walking around pressing all the girls to take one".
Christine Heame was sent off on a ferry with a luggage label in the 1950s, when she was ten. The Reverend Mother helped her unpack. "I can even now remember her horror that I had not brought a mysterious item called a 'part de toilette'. I had no idea what this might be but was immediately taken down to the shops to buy one. It turned out to be a flannel in the shape of a mitten. English face cloths were not deemed sufficient."



She had already learnt the first thing about the French: that they know best. The theme of brisk French inebriability and English anxiety to please recurs through all these first encounters.
But perhaps the most sobering observations are from Richard Gordon, a Scot who spent a formative term in a provincial lycée in the 1980s. Coming from a Midlothian comprehensive, the teenager was astonished that "there was no violence. That in itself was like a cloud lifting on my world, where receiving and dealing vio-

lence was a bedrock of the school culture." Nor was there any of the appalling pressure to adhere to strict group norms in dress, behaviour, and attitude. In Scotland if my socks were different it was remarked upon and ridiculed as a means of group tyranny. Individuality was violently discouraged, with the acquiescence of staff.
His French friends, above all, were happy to be young. "Not for them the desperate attempts to look hard and act tough. They had an appreciation of what is good of life, from friendship to food, and an understanding of, rather than rebellion against, the formalities that attend such pleasures. Descriptions of the years of fighting time melted into my education horrified them. My schooldays in France supported my belief that the system I grew up in was wrong and unpleasant."
His reflections might give uneasy food for thought as British football fans rampage and a former Westminster School headmaster, John Rae, observes in print that the young British fight "because that is what they do best". Is it in the culture, all the way from Tom Brown's Schooldays to the Hysel stadium? And does it take an alien culture, albeit with its own failings, to show us up as barbarians?

LIBBY PURVES

Why can't we cope with a crisis?

Basic life-saving can be learnt in hours — yet even many professionals are useless in a medical emergency. Now pressure is growing for more first aid training. Liz Gill reports

Heart failure is the most common cause of death among middle-aged men and many of them will die in front of their families. Tony Kemp says it is because of this that so many middle-aged women come to the first aid courses he runs: their husbands died and they were helpless.

Mr Kemp is a senior training officer for the British Red Cross, and despite the fact that his organisation trains 90,000 people a year in the skills of first aid — and St John Ambulance more than 200,000 — he says the overall picture is alarming. "Most people walk away from someone lying unconscious or injured and that includes doctors and nurses," he says. "For the professionals there's partly the fear of being sued. But it's also that they often do not know what to do."

Viewers of *Casualty* and other medical television dramas might be forgiven for thinking that all doctors and nurses possess emergency life-saving skills and are ready to spring into action with mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and chest compression at the first sign of a crisis. Sadly it seems life is unlikely to imitate art. A study of 24 consultants at Bedford General Hospital, published last week, found that all performed "extremely poorly" when asked to employ such techniques on a dummy, and 42 per cent were unable to score any marks at all. According to Jeremy Saunders, a consultant gastroenterologist at the hospital and one of the authors of the report, ability levels elsewhere are likely to be similar.

Mr Kemp says that a recent survey of 40 nurses showed that only one would have been successful at cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and his own research at a nurses' conference unearthed ideas that would have been downright dangerous if put into practice. "One would have put fat on a

burn, for instance. Another would have pulled a spinal injury patient all over the place. Treating someone in the street is very different from treating someone on a hospital trolley, where you have all the equipment around you."

If some of the experts get it wrong, there is little wonder that ordinary people are scared of doing anything. Mr Kemp says: "I don't think it's callousness or even the fear of catching something. It might be British reserve, although there's no evidence that things are better on the Continent. They're afraid of interfering or making things worse, or can't face the fact that someone is so seriously ill."

Mr Kemp witnessed a classic example of both professional and public incompetence only a few days ago when he came to the aid of a woman who had slumped unconscious in a train at London's Victoria station. "I heard about it because someone came running through the train. When I got to that compartment, there must have been 80 people there and only one man was prepared to help me and he had not been willing to initiate anything by himself. Then a passenger who was an anaesthetist appeared and said, 'Let's intubate' [put a tube down the throat to clear the airway], I said, 'Your place or mine?' That summed it all up, a carriage of 80 people not doing a thing and a doctor wanting his intubation equipment."

What makes it all so absurd, he says, is that in two hours you can learn the principles of how to save a life. This would include: warning signs of a heart attack, mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and external chest compression techniques; the ability to clear an airway, put someone in the recovery position and deal with choking and severe bleeding; and how to call an ambulance (which means explaining what you think may be wrong so that the right team can be sent). Two hours of training for Dr Saunders' colleagues brought

marked improvements. None scored zero and two thirds scored maximum marks. "The theory is straightforward but these are essentially practical skills, which is why you must regularly update and refresh them at least once a year if you are not in the front line," Dr Saunders says.

His findings echo those of other studies at St Bartholomew's hospital in London and Addenbrooke's in Cambridge several years ago, which prompted recommendations from the Royal College of Physicians that every hospital should have its own resuscitation training officer.

So far only about 40 have them, mainly because of financial constraints, though Andrew Marsden, an accident and emergency consultant at Pinderfields hospital in Wakefield and a medical director of St John Ambulance, believes this will improve in time.

"The Royal Colleges are putting pressure on hospitals to make better training provision, although I'd rather see legislation. At the moment it's sporadic. Some hospitals train all the staff who have contact with patients. In others there is too much reliance on the crash team [the hospital emergency team]."

Public knowledge is very patchy, he says. A poll of over 2,200 holidaymakers by St John Ambulance last month found that only 62 per cent knew how to treat sunburn, 78 per cent a wasp sting in the mouth, 71 per cent a child with stomach pains and 69 per cent a cut foot. Those who got it wrong could in some circumstances have endangered lives.

Dr Marsden would like to see the most vital elements of first aid taught in schools from as early as eight — the organisation runs such a course but take-up depends on individual schools — and in the workplace. The law requires one in every 50 employees to hold a first aid qualification, but he believes it



might be preferable to offer the basic skills to a large number rather than the advanced to a few.

"Beyond that, information could be linked to whatever is appropriate, so, for instance, antenatal classes could teach you about a sick baby, a driving test could include a test on what to do at a road accident, holiday companies could give advice on holiday problems," Dr Marsden says.

The big problem for the would-be first aider of course is whether

one might make matters worse. Dr Marsden says: "There is a danger of over-confidence. We always stress that first aid is exactly that: what you do until you can hand someone over to a professional."

Most experts agree, however, that if someone is not breathing and has no pulse, almost anything is better than nothing. The brain can last only four minutes without oxygen.

Fiona Whimster, the scheme manager for St Bartholomew's City

Life Saver courses, which offer two-hour after-work sessions for the public, says: "People worry for instance about breaking a rib in chest compression, but if someone is not breathing and has no heart beat, they will die anyway."

The scheme, which began in 1986, has just trained its 20,000th person. So far 110 people have phoned as requested to say that they have used the skills they learnt. "Of course there's a gap between theory and practice but people tend

WHAT WOULD YOU DO FIRST?

1. Your eight-year-old daughter careers through a glass patio door, not realising it is closed. She suffers severe cuts on her lower leg that are bleeding seriously and there is glass embedded in the cut. You would expect her to be screaming with pain and crying but she is lying still with her eyes closed.

2. An elderly male relative has to ask for a chair in a shop because he feels "slightly out of breath" and has "a slight twinge" in the chest and left arm.

3. Your five-year-old son complains of bad tummy ache, is in obvious pain and looks shocked. On questioning him it transpires he has swallowed some kitchen disinfectant.

4. You are alone in the house cooking a meal when you accidentally put your hand on a hot electric ring. Your hand is severely burnt and blistered as a result.

5. Your wife is cutting the hedge with an electric trimmer when she accidentally hits an electric cable and suffers an electric shock. She collapses to the ground still holding the trimmer. You run to help her.

6. Your husband is digging in the garden and accidentally pierces his foot right through with the garden fork.

● What you should do, below

not to balk when it really happens," Ms Whimster says.

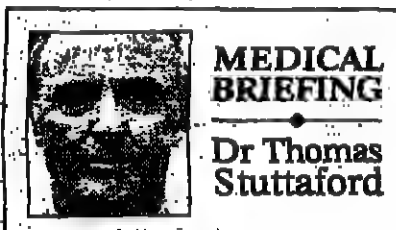
There appear to be no figures available on the number of lives saved by those trained in first aid, nor any projections about the number that could be saved. But Mr Kemp believes it would be substantial. "One of the saddest things I ever heard was a pathologist telling me that many of the young people who die in motorbike crashes died simply because their airway was obstructed."

Light fingers surprised

THE police warning that the bottle left by a doctor in a Harrods bag on a No. 14 bus in South Kensington, London, contained urine contaminated by leprosy will add anxiety to the disappointment which the thief must already feel. Did he, or she, sniff the contents, hoping that they had stumbled across some exotic scent? Was some spilt on their hands as they tried to work out what their booty was?

If the urine was treated with less than scientific care would it matter? In medieval Europe there would have been no doubts; the church, and the state, having discovered that leprosy was spread by contact, imposed a regime of strict isolation on sufferers.

Lepers were torn from their families and incarcerated in one of Europe's 19,000 leproseries. As they were consigned to oblivion a funeral service was said for them because, so far as society was concerned, they were dead. If they did ever venture out from their hospices they were distinctly dressed, carried a bell to warn unsuspecting fellow citizens of their presence, and were forbidden to speak except in whispers. They also carried a stick so that they could reach for goods in a shop without having to come too close to the shopkeeper. English lepers were



comparatively lucky. In the 14th century the inappropriately named Philip the Fair of France ordered that any infected subject should be burnt.

The thief can be reasonably certain that he will not suffer from handling the bacillus, *Mycobacterium leprae*, for leprosy is surprisingly difficult to catch as most people have a natural resistance to it.

Leprosy can be spread by skin contact but the usual method is from the inhalation of droplets from the sufferer's nose. The old adage that coughs and sneezes spread diseases applies as much to leprosy as it does to the common cold. Discovery of droplet transmission of leprosy has, over 600 years later, added support to the old edict that the outcasts should only whisper.

The cutaneous manifestations of the

disease, the unsightly rashes pictured in every medical text book, are comparatively unimportant, for the significant damage is done by the penetration of the nerve by the leprosy bacillus. When the bacillus dies it sets up inflammation in the nerve which eventually leads to the nerve's destruction.

Deprived of the nerve supply the muscles wither and as patients lose the protection of the sensation of pain in the skin of the hands and feet, they can be irreparably damaged by minor burns and other injuries. The damage also affects fingers and toes, and in advanced cases other organs may become affected: men sometimes lose their testes.

If the light-fingered traveller on the No. 14 has joined the 1,200 people who over the last 50 years have developed leprosy while in Britain, the disease having been caught abroad, he or she need not despair. Modern treatment will rid the body of 99 per cent of the bacillus in a matter of days. If the strain of leprosy is resistant to dapsone (the standard drug), the present system of combined therapy — in which other drugs such as rifampicin, clofazimine, prothionamide or ethionamide are used with dapsone — will rapidly deal with the problem.

Pets off the hook

DOUBTS have been expressed on the importance of toxoplasmosis in dogs (a parasite spread by puppies which can damage the retina of children) as a frequent cause of blindness in children. In fact the numbers involved seem to be reassuringly low and public parks much more wholesome than is supposed.

Now there are protests that the campaign for the universal screening of pregnant women for toxoplasmosis is unnecessarily alarmist to the patient and unfair to their cats. Toxoplasmosis is a different parasitic disease which in the adult causes only a transitory glandular fever-type condition but if caught by a pregnant woman can damage the unborn child. It is caught through contamination of food, or food handlers' hands, by cat's faeces or by eating undercooked meat infested by the parasite.

A campaign by the Toxoplasmosis Trust is not only criticised by cat lovers but also by such uncommitted organisations as Community Hygiene Concern, an independent organisation interested in protecting the community from public health problems. Joanna Ibarra, a spokeswoman, said that although toxoplasmosis was a danger in pregnancy it was a comparatively small one and that the screening proposed would give rise to too many false positives and would therefore be inaccurate.

Careful scientific survey by the British Paediatric Surveillance Unit has concluded that there were only 20 cases of



congenitally acquired toxoplasmosis, in which the unborn baby was damaged, in a year in Britain and that previous estimates had overrated the danger by quoting a non-proven figure of 140.

Since the campaign for screening has started, several pregnant women have telephoned Ms Ibarra's organisation merely because they have seen a cat in their garden. It seems that in some

sophisticated suburbs cats are now as feared by pregnant women as society feared lepers in medieval times.

This is a largely unnecessary fear in Ms Ibarra's opinion since the principal danger stems from eating undercooked meat, often mutton.

No screening campaign can replace the need to wash hands, as well as vegetables and fruit, and to ban pets from the kitchen.

No shock of hair?

IN A recent *Desert Island Discs* broadcast the swimmer Duncan Goodhew attributed his total loss of hair, alopecia totalis, to the shock induced by falling out of a tree in early adolescence.

Many experts think that alopecia totalis may be one of the auto-immune diseases — in which case stress could well play a part in its aetiology and it is possible that Mr Goodhew's explanation is correct. The medical magazine *Update* reports that a trial is under way to assess the effect of cyclosporin A, an immunosuppressant drug, on the condition.

In most cases of alopecia, whether totalis in which the hair on the head, body and face including the eyelashes is lost, or areata in which there are unsightly bald patches on the scalp, hair growth recurs within a year. However Mr Goodhew was young at the time and the onset of the baldness was sudden, two features which suggest a poor prognosis and it is noteworthy that Mr Goodhew's hair has never regrown. Patients with alopecia are also less likely to do well if they suffer from asthma, hay fever or eczema or if their nails have also been affected and have become brittle, coarsened and ridged.

Existing treatment for alopecia totalis or areata is disappointing. Even in those cases where there has been improvement it is hard to be certain whether it is due to the natural resolution of the disease or rather to a doctor's ministrations.

FIRST REACTIONS: THE ANSWERS

1. The most important function of the first aider is to ensure that the casualty's air passages remain open and clear, and that she is breathing adequately. The impact may have caused unconsciousness and she may have stopped breathing — a far more serious problem than the bleeding itself. Open her mouth and nose air passages by lifting the jaw and tilting back her head.

Remove any obvious obstruction. Check breathing by listening at the mouth and looking for chest and abdomen movement. If she has stopped breathing begin resuscitation immediately. If you do not know how to do this, get yourself on a first aid course as soon as possible. To control bleeding and minimise risk of infection, look for glass in the wound but do not remove any glass embedded in the wound — it may be plugging the wound or you may inflict further tissue damage. Lift her leg and apply direct pressure, squeezing the edges of the wound together alongside the glass. Gently place a piece of gauze over and/or around the glass and place

creased-shaped pads of cotton or similar material around the wound. If possible, build up the padding until it is high enough to prevent pressure on the glass. Secure with a firm bandage. Otherwise leave glass protruding and secure with a diagonally applied bandage which must not apply pressure over the glass. Keep her as still as possible in case she has suffered a fracture. Call 999 and ask for an ambulance.

2. Get the casualty in a resting position in which the heart is able to work most effectively. To do this, help him to lie down. Support him in a reclining position by placing a blanket or jacket behind him. Reassure him and advise him to keep still. Loosen clothing around his neck, chest and waist. Tell the shop assistant to call 999 and ask for an ambulance.

3. Call 999 and ask for an ambulance immediately. Do not

attempt to induce vomiting. If his lips are showing signs of burning, cool them by giving him water or milk to sip slowly. Place him in the recovery position even if he is not unconscious (he may vomit). Watch his breathing, and if it stops, begin resuscitation immediately. Send with him in the ambulance samples of any vomit and the bottle of disinfectant he drank from.

4. Place your hand under slowly running cold water for at least ten minutes — longer if pain persists. Gently remove any rings, watch or bracelet before swelling begins. Put your hand and wrist in a clean plastic bag or dress the area with clean, preferably sterile, non-fluffy material. Seek medical aid at a casualty department or local GP practice.

5. Shout to a neighbour or member of family to dial 999 and ask for an ambulance. Break the current by switching off the cur-

rent at the mains or meter if it can be quickly reached. If not, remove the trimmer plug from the electric socket or wrench the cable free. If you cannot do this stand on a wooden implement to push her hand free of the trimmer. Do not touch her or use anything metallic or damp until her hand is free of the trimmer. She may be unconscious or suffering from breathing difficulties, shock or burns and should be treated for these in that order of priority. Ensure that an ambulance has been called.

6. Do not remove the fork: it is plugging the wound. Treat for unconsciousness, breathing difficulties, bleeding and shock. Call 999 and ask for an ambulance.

● This information was supplied by St John Ambulance. These are priority actions. Further information on first aid procedures can be obtained from St John Ambulance or the Red Cross. These situations require a good first aid kit and, in the case of resuscitation, proper first aid training. St John Ambulance will be happy to help.

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ROSS
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Rim (3)
Early stage (6)

4 Knight (3)
7 Crane fly (5,4,4)
13 Oxford men (4,5)
15 Cigarette stub (4,3)
17 Run away to marry (5)

Front (4)
Vacations (8)
Way (6)
Gardener's car (b)
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Flag pole (3)
Cowboy award (5)
Abstain (6)
WIN
Fellow soldier (7,2,4)
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By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

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